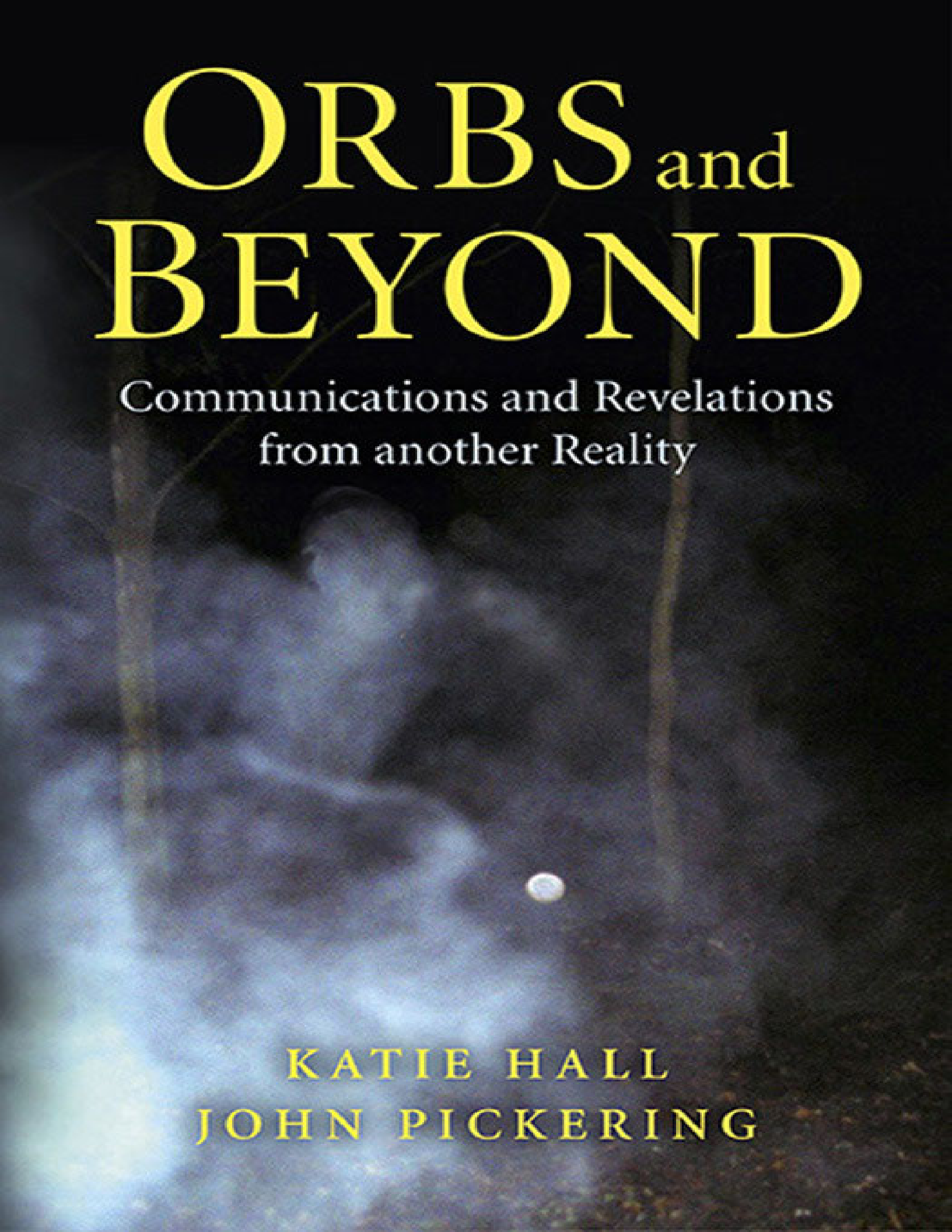
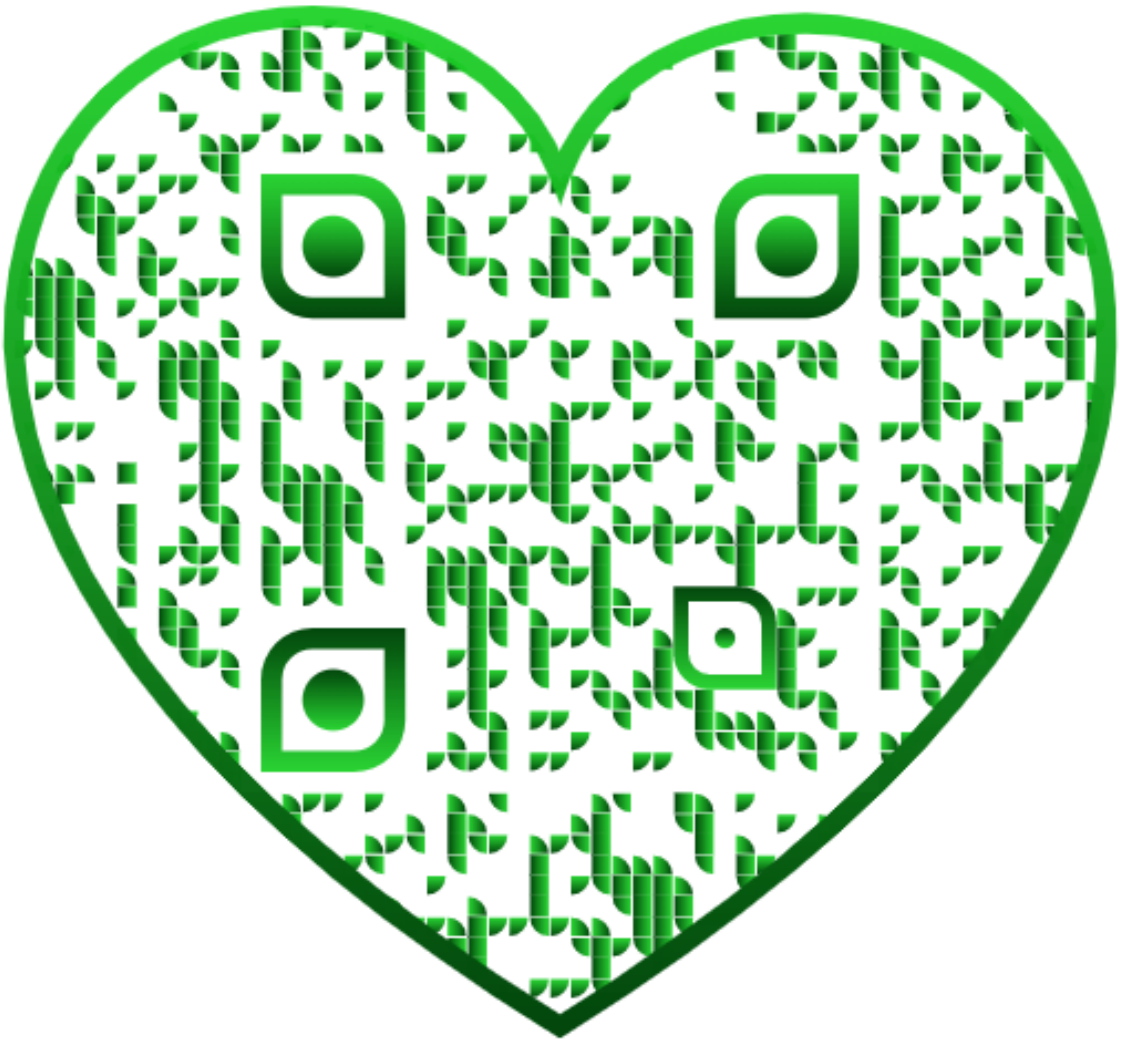

ORBS and BEYOND
Communications and Revelations from another Reality
KATIE HALL
JOHN PICKERING



Book Two in the Beyond Trilogy

Orbs and Beyond

Revelations from the Wider Reality

Katie Hall & John Pickering

6th BOOKS

Winchester, UK
Washington, USA

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FOREWORD

This latest offering by Katie Hall and John Pickering on the nature of strange light phenomena, reveals even greater insight and evidence that we are not alone in this universe.

What these light-forms are, is still open to question; however, there does appear to be a kind of interaction and participation at some level, and you will come to this realization more and more as you read through this book, which takes us on an evolutionary journey from orbs to beyond.

Who are those beings of light?

What is the significance of Sirius?

Who is the mystical lady dressed in mauve?

Why is the symbolism of orbs so important for us all today?

Their first book, Beyond Photography created a stir across the country and this second book, in Katie and John's Beyond Trilogy, will excite and enthral readers even more. Generally we are so busy living in our three dimensional world, accepting what the 'experts' tell us about the nature of reality, that all crop formations were created by two old men with planks, or that orbs and ethereal light-beings are nothing more than dust particles on the camera lens, that sometimes we simply just miss the wonder and mystery that surrounds us. In Orbs and Beyond we encounter some of that mystery and wonder first hand, through all the astounding photographs and unique insights.

And here I can do no better than offer a quote from Orbs and Beyond:

"One positive thing about encountering anomalous or paranormal phenomenon is that it often provides a kick start to get us thinking out of the box; to look beyond what is commonly acceptable to see new possibilities; new horizons".

If this is the time for you to open your own mind and learn more about our 'other-worldly' neighbours, you will certainly be doing yourself a favour if you begin your journey by reading this book, for you will not be disappointed. In this personal account of their encounters with paranormal phenomena, well documented with astounding photographs, Katie and John have created a visually exciting book that is eminently readable, informative and inspiring. More importantly it is also a book that challenges us all at a spiritual level; this comes through very strongly in both their words and their amazing photographs.

Whether you are well informed or new to the subject of paranormal phenomena, this is a book that everyone should read; for every time you go back to it you will find something new! Following on from their innovative beginnings in Beyond Photography, the authors continue to break new ground, bringing new insights, and one wonders where all this is heading as we move further and further into the Great Mystery that surrounds us. Are we the observer or the observed? What is it that we are all part of; what is it that we are?

In Orbs and Beyond we are certainly given an intriguing and inspiring glimpse into new possibilities beyond the commonly accepted views of reality. This opens up a whole Pandora's Box of new questions about life and the cosmos.

Well done Katie and John for this truly inspiring and groundbreaking work. I am already looking forward to the Third Book in your Beyond Trilogy!

Mike Oram, author and lecturer.

Books by Mike Oram:

Does It Rain In Other Dimensions?

The Zen of Ben

Alien Interface

The Strange World of Jimmy Hayes

www.inotherdimensions.com

www.bens-world.co.uk

www.cafepress.co.uk/bensfunworld

PREFACE

For the benefit of any readers who may be approaching this subject for the first time, the term, “orbs”, has become synonymous with the anomalous circular images which appear on photographs. There are many beliefs about what orbs may be, ranging from the gullible and ludicrous to the innovative and reasonable; equally there are also many sceptical misconceptions about orbs. Sadly some of these, just like the two old men with planks explanation for crop formations, have become instant received wisdom for the uninformed sceptics amongst us.

Our previous book, Beyond Photography, was first published in December 2006 by O-Books.

It was the first book in the world to document one couple’s encounters with paranormal visual phenomena and to examine orbs in any detail.

When Beyond Photography was first published it included eight pages of full colour photographs, but because of increased printing costs it has not been possible to reproduce our images in full colour at this time, even though we have included many amazing new images. In our presentations we do show all our images in full colour; you can also see some of them on our website: www.lights2beyond.com and because we have had so many requests we will be creating a YouTube video which will include most of the photographs in this book, so do look out for that under the title of ORBS AND BEYOND, which is in effect also the Second Volume in our Beyond Trilogy, published by O-Books. The Third Volume: BEYOND REALITY is currently still being written and will be published as soon as possible.

From the start, we tried to understand the phenomena we were witnessing not only in terms of our own subjective experience but in the wider context of history, metaphysics and science. At the time neither Katie nor I had any idea of the effect our book would have on our own lives or on the lives of many others around the globe. We had been given a unique opportunity to photograph and interact with incredible phenomena and we knew that the right thing to do was to share that with others. Since then, interest in orbs

has mushroomed all over the world. Type “orbs” into Google and you’ll find many websites on the subject, ours included: www.lights2beyond.com

Along with Ufology we now have what could be called, “Orbology” – and it seems that “orbographically” speaking, in New Age terms, orbs have arrived! This has had its positives and negatives for we must not forget that consumerism is just as endemic in the New Age as it is in mainstream society; with orbs, as with UFOs and Crop Formations, we must all be careful to distinguish between those opportunists who have simply jumped onto the bandwagon, and the accounts of genuine experiencers and researchers.

Phenomena such as orbs, crop formations and UFOs not only appeals to intelligent New Age believers and progressive thinkers they also unfortunately have a tendency to attract the lunatic fringe that inhabits the twilight zones of all major religions, beliefs: New Age concepts and progressive movements, whether spiritual or political.

For instance, at a recent conference we were approached by another speaker.

“I see you are going to be speaking about orbs. I know everything about orbs.”

He then went on for quite a while pedantically expounding his own pet theory. Having once worked in mental health as a therapist, I inadvertently found myself slipping into therapist mode.

Then he said, “Oh, yes, I can even create orbs and make them appear at will!”

Duly impressed, Katie said, “That’s great, can you make one appear now?”

This seemed a reasonable enough request, because if I said to someone, “I’m a cartoonist” and they then asked me to draw something, I’d have no problem whatsoever doing so.

But our erstwhile orb expert obviously couldn't do what he claimed, as his shocked response was instantly, "No! That's just tempting me to pander to your ego!"

And off he went happy in the delusion that he really had all the answers to orbs and everything. The point of this little tale is that we have to be aware that self-delusion and ego driven thinking is often as alive and well in the New Age as it is in the media and religion! To be grounded it is important to realize that when it comes to paranormal phenomena – theoretical physics, parapsychology or the mystery of consciousness – we are all equally on a learning curve! Those who claim to know all the answers invariably do not understand the questions in the first place.

As much as we humans may know about life and the universe, the sum of our ignorance as a species massively outweighs our knowledge. Endemic to both religion and the New Age is a minority of people who claim to know all the answers, not just for their own life but for yours and mine! We have to beware that such people may not only be deluding themselves but sometimes, for whatever reasons, may be deliberately trying to deceive the rest of us as well. When it comes to the crunch, it is not what such people say that defines them, but what they do! Bluntly, if they cannot do what they claim, they are either deluded or deceivers.

To not be aware that deceptions exist is simply naïve. Recently someone sent us some photos taken at a wedding; every photograph had orbs, but it was instantly obvious to us that all these were faked; indeed they had been created by an App that you can now get for your mobile phone to jazz up your images with orb-like effects. Not that they are convincing or meant to be, but in that context I feel impelled to point out here that our images have not been artificially contrived and apart from being lightened in some cases, the photographs are exactly as we took them. In the few instances where we have used photo-enhancement this is clearly stated. But when O-Books decided to publish Beyond Photography, I did wonder if, as we were both artistic, this would be more likely to incline sceptics to think we had created the images in some way? Of course we could have equally been gardeners or accountants. Those determined to be sceptical, come what may, will invariably seize on anything to try to deny what they don't like, or find

uncomfortable. The fact is orbs are photographed by all kinds of people with all kinds of cameras. Our own experiences and photographs are simply part of on-going worldwide phenomena. However, we must all be aware that practically anything can be faked: UFOs, Crop Formations, Ghosts etc, especially today with digital technology. The popularity of "ghost hunting-type" TV programs has inevitably resulted in facts being bent and so called "paranormal events" being faked for the sake of entertainment. Yet even so this has resulted in raising the profile of genuine paranormal events. The mobile phone orb App that has appeared since Beyond Photography was published may be a testament to the popularity of orbs in the general consciousness, but we have to question, apart from harmless entertainment, why would anyone want to try to fake orbs? It is after all a bit like sticking on a false moustache when there millions of people with real ones!

That fact that something can be faked does not mean that it is faked! All we know from our own experience is that the phenomenon we have photographed is the tip of the iceberg: photographs in themselves are not conclusive proof, but they are definitely visual evidence. Put together with thousands of similar images from all over the world taken by old SLR film cameras, digital, video and CCTV cameras and mobile phones, such images are, we believe, indications of a wider reality interfacing with our own.

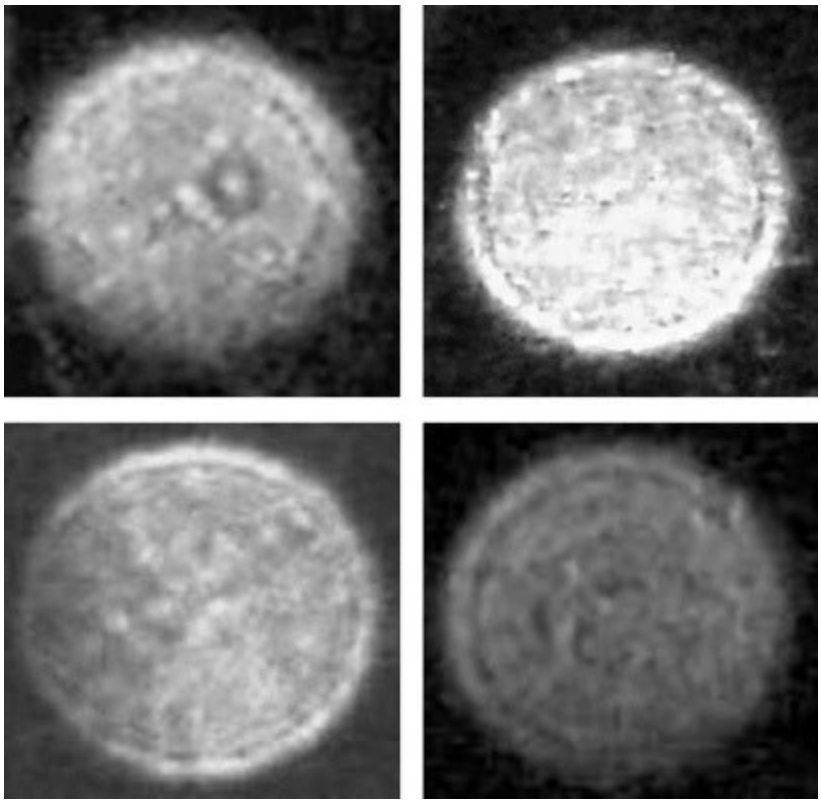
In any honest examination or investigation into any phenomena, natural, scientific, paranormal or otherwise, finding the truth should be our goal, not bending data to fit previously conceived theories or beliefs. No matter how much we may cherish our pet theories! Fortunately when we began our study into orbs and other related phenomena we approached the subject with good advice from the late Carl Sagan firmly in mind: that of keeping a balance between scepticism and wonder! We also have to remember that all experience, especially paranormal experience, is subjectively perceived and translated by the individual experiencer. In that context all we can do is share with you our experiences, our photographs and our own questions, opinions, beliefs and speculations. Essentially this book reflects a personal view of encounters with what we term a "Beyond Reality"; hopefully we have presented this as reasonably and as interestingly as possible.

We sincerely hope that you will find the astounding images in this book, as thought provoking and inspiring as we do.

Katie Hall & John Pickering 2013

PART ONE

ORBS IN FOCUS



A brief but comprehensive overview of the orbs phenomenon for both past readers and also for those who have come to study this subject for the first time

AN INTRODUCTION TO A PHENOMENON

As mentioned, our book, Beyond Photography was not only the first book to examine orbs in any detail, it was also the first book in the world to photographically document one couple's encounters with a wide spectrum of unfolding paranormal phenomena. This included, Orbs, Luminosities, Light Rods, Light-Forms and Light Beings. We must stress again that although we applied terms to all the phenomena, such terms are descriptive only – not definitive!

ORBS AND BEYOND is divided into two distinct parts. Part One: Orbs in Focus, deals specifically with orbs and is the shorter of the two, because the phenomenon of orbs is covered extensively in our previous book. Part Two: Beyond Realities, deals specifically with events and phenomena beyond orbs, and includes experiences and new photographic evidence that only occurred after the publication of Beyond Photography.

In ORBS AND BEYOND we have included many images never before published and have tried to convey both the mystery and the wonder of our experiences, which still continue to unfold.

Over the years we have had to question many things: not least the nature of what exactly it is we were photographing and how it was possible for us to photograph paranormal phenomena in the first place. Our personal experiences with unusual phenomenon began many years ago, when we were both only children. Our quest into the paranormal for both of us is essentially a personal one: to try to gain more understanding; to discover the truth – whatever that may turn out to be.

All the extraordinary events leading up to this present moment have been like the focussing of a lens in which things which were once hazy, have come into sharper focus.

In retrospect it seems rather synchronistic that at the very same time we ourselves were questioning the phenomenon manifesting in and around our home in the United Kingdom, across the other side of the Atlantic in the USA, similar photographs of orbs were being taken and similar questions

asked by other researchers. The Orb Project, by Miċeál Ledwith and Klaus Heinemann was published the year after our own Beyond Photography. More recently, and in my opinion the best book so far on orbs to come from the USA in the past few years is the great book by Sandra Underwood, Orbs, Lightwaves, and Cosmic Consciousness, which we thoroughly recommend.

From both sides of the Atlantic, orbs have now entered the public perception. All over the world today awareness of paranormal phenomena is increasing. This has both positive and negative aspects for the search for truth, because popularising anything can easily blur the distinctions between fact and fiction; opportunism and marketing forces are, as we have all seen in the whole 2012 debacle, as alive and well in religion and the New Age as in mainstream business.

Once the existence of orbs had filtered into the "New Age consciousness" it was almost inevitable that someone with an eye on the market would link orbs to angels or faeries – or even aliens. Orbs appear in various colours, and some have attached (bogusly, I think) a significance to this and have related the colours of orbs to the colours (so far unproven) of certain angels. From there it was only a small step to then state categorically that orbs are angels!

Now, there is nothing wrong with someone believing that orbs may be angels, but to be dogmatic about this seems to me less than intellectually honest in the circumstances. The exact nature of angels is open to question anyway and there is no evidence whatsoever that certain colours in the spectrum relate specifically to particular angels. It's all purely arbitrary, and in some cases complete fiction; we may as well believe that all red orbs are Santa's elves or that different colours relate to various flower faeries or that grey orbs are alien greys. Although the New Age movement contains some progressive concepts and cutting-edge thinking, we must all be aware that it also contains some very fuzzy thinking and largely unfounded notions often incorrectly claimed by some to be the incontrovertible truth, about Orbs, UFOs, Crop Formations or whatever. Dogmatism is just as alive and well in some areas of the New Age as it is in fundamentalist religion; we all need to be careful to keep that balance of wonder and reason. Today there is much

“received wisdom” as to the meaning of life and events coming not only from the tabloids but also from certain popular gurus and channellers who just like some professional debunkers, make a business out of being right all the time about “spiritual” or “paranormal” matters. In the whole area of metaphysics and paranormal phenomena too many tenuous opinions are purveyed as facts to the unwary. The fact is there are far more opinions than there are facts – and that is a fact!

This is why we have been careful in our presentations and in this book to place clearly our views, insights and opinions within the context of our own subjective experiences, both as intuitive individuals and as rationally inquiring human beings. We claim no supernatural assistance; neither do we know all the answers. Our quest is the human quest; it has both a rational and a spiritual dimension, and that is true for every one of us; we are each on our own individual journey through the mystery and wonder of Life.

Over the past seven years we have photographed an unfolding phenomenon which although it began with orbs has included, Luminosities, moving columns or Rods of Light, swirling, dynamic Light-Forms, and Light Beings; but throughout it all, orbs have been the one consistent factor.

This book is not only an account of our personal experiences and speculations, it is also intended to be an informative guide to the whole phenomenon of orbs. So before we proceed further here is a quick summary of Seven Common Aspects of the Orb Phenomenon, as we see it:

1. The most notable aspect of orbs is the consistent ubiquity of the phenomenon. Thousands of individuals all over the world are photographing the same phenomenon with different cameras in widely different conditions.

2. The vast majority of orbs cannot be adequately explained in prosaic terms, i.e. they are not dust, moisture, digital errors or the planet Venus etc.

3. There is reported evidence of a definite interactive aspect to orbs and luminosities, often relating to people as specific individuals.

4. In psychological terms the circular image of the orb recalls the archetypical symbol of Unity and Oneness. Coincidentally this symbolism is appearing at a time when the concept of Oneness is critically meaningful to us in planetary terms, and is also particularly significant in light of the new perspective of a connective reality underpinning our physical universe.

5. Orbs cross faith and cultural boundaries. All across the planet interest in orbs is increasing by people of all beliefs – or none at all.

6. Incidents of synchronicity are regularly reported as being experienced by many who photograph orbs and luminosities.

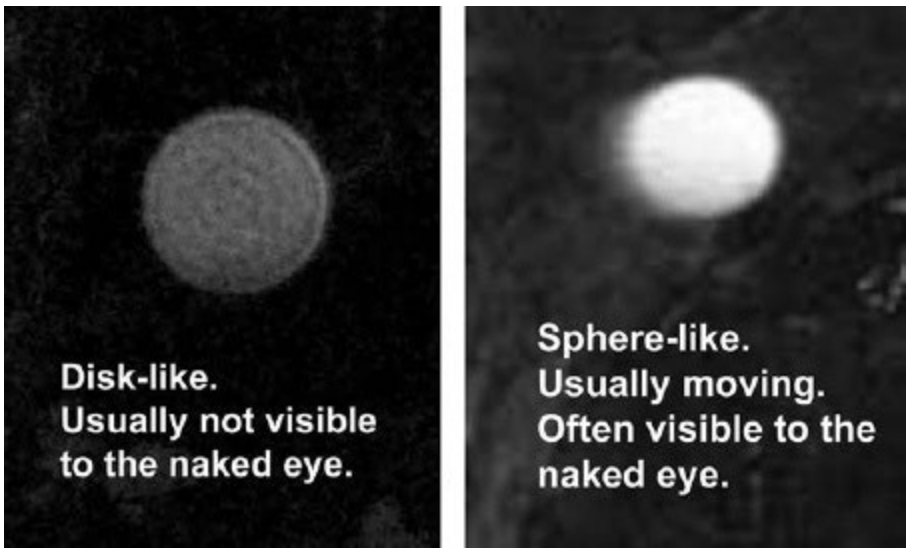
7. Many individuals from a variety of professional backgrounds report both purpose and intentionality associated with the visual phenomena.

In Part One we shall examine each aspect of the orbs phenomenon through our photographs and experiences. Some of this is covered in our previous book, but here you will also find much that is new, as here published for the first time, are many events and photographic encounters that happened well after Beyond Photography was published.

The Study of a Phenomenon

As mentioned some of this is covered in depth in Beyond Photography but before we take a step beyond orbs we must, for the sake of continuity, begin with an overview of orbs as we have come to understand them through our own experiences, research and photographic encounters.

From the context of our study of the orbs phenomenon we divided it into two basic categories:



In our experience, orbs are part of a wide range of interconnected anomalous phenomena which includes Orbs, Luminosities, Light Rods, Light-Forms and Light Beings.

In endeavouring to convey the essence of what we have photographed, as we perceive it, we have of necessity used various terms such as Sprites, Light Beings etc, but please bear in mind that the terms we use in relation to this phenomena are descriptive – not definitive. We are all on a learning curve in the area of paranormal phenomena. In that context it is only sensible for us all to hold our personal beliefs and speculations on an open hand.

Some people will wrongly tell you categorically that orbs are angels, aliens, spirits of the dead, unborn spirits etc. These are all beliefs or opinions: not

facts! They may or may not be correct.

All we can honestly say is that so far nothing in our experiences or study of this phenomenon incontrovertibly confirms any such views or beliefs. In fact the indications seem to be that orbs can be seen as manifestations of any of the above, or none of them!

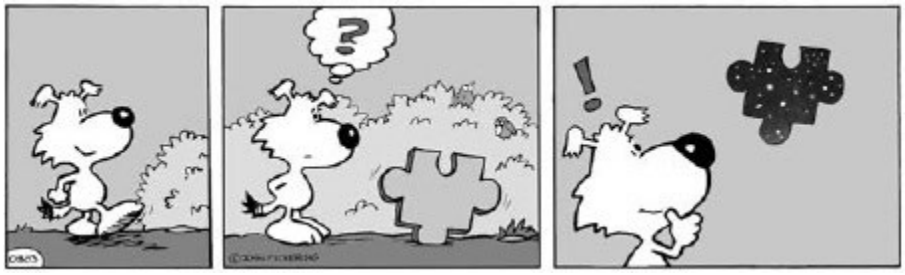
We cannot tell you what the paranormal is anymore than we can tell you what God is: all we can do is share our views, experiences and photographs. This does not mean that we know nothing, in fact through our experiences and photographs we have learned much that is of value about the paranormal in general and we shall be discussing some of that later in this book. However, whatever views or opinions we each may have about paranormal phenomena, we should always be ready to revise or modify those views: for the paranormal, like the quantum universe, is never exactly what it may seem and is always full of surprises.

As mentioned in our first book, Beyond Photography, we began by sceptically questioning the nature of the orbs that appeared on our photographs; we tried to eliminate all natural causes before we moved on to examine the possibility of some kind of paranormal association. This took both time and patient examination and comparison of hundreds of photographs and the conditions in which they were taken. For example, we did not do any screaming or running around such as you may have seen in some psychic entertainment programs on TV; it is impossible to do serious research into psychic or paranormal phenomena in such circumstances.

A year after Beyond Photography was published by O-Books in 2006, another book, The Orb Project by Miceal Ledwith and ex-NASA scientist, Klaus Heinemann was published in the USA, this qualified our own view that genuine orbs were the interactive indications of a wider reality interfacing with our own. This is not just about the photographs but about the reality of a ubiquitous phenomenon seen and experienced by people all over the world. In our case, as with many others, this has gone far beyond the photographs, and has in effect informed and changed our own lives in ways that would not have happened otherwise. Certainly in our experience of this phenomenon the associated synchronicities have been so many and so accurate that pure chance seems extremely unlikely as an explanation. In

line with the late Carl Sagan's eclectic approach to science, our own experience in studying the phenomenon of orbs qualifies that by being open to both wonder and reason we may all learn something new.

This is a point made in our Ben's World cartoon, as in this strip below:



Sometime we may be just walking along, minding our own business, when for no apparent reason a piece of the universal puzzle falls right in our path. When that happens, whatever it is, we can choose to ignore it or to walk round it – or we can choose to try to figure out where it fits. Whenever we do that, as puzzling as it is and as incomplete as our answers may be, we are no longer mere bystanders in Life, but active participants in the mystery and wonder of Existence!

This is essentially where we are in relation to the question of orbs: what are they really, what do they mean? How do we fit the orbs phenomenon into what we know about life in general: our own experiences and the experiences of others. Then there are the wider questions of how something like orbs fit into what we may know of physics, the paranormal or consciousness. No phenomenon whether normal or paranormal exists in isolation; whatever it is and however it manifests, it is always connected through many levels and in many different ways to everything else that makes up Reality as we all experience it. But this of course does not mean that our current scientific or rational paradigm of Reality can explain everything – of course it cannot, for science as methodical and precise as it may be, only offers the best approximation of what is. It is always subject to updates and modifications. Once a scientific view of the Universe becomes moribund and un-bending it ceases to be scientific progress and becomes the same kind of dogmatic orthodoxy you find in some religions. We humans are capable of lapsing into static thinking about a whole variety of

things: orbs and the paranormal included. We have probably all met such people at conferences: those who know all the answers, or have a rigid view of science, religion or what constitutes truth about anything and everything! The fact is there are always more opinions than there are facts, especially in relation to paranormal or spiritual matters – and that is a fact! If you don't believe it, check it out!

Some people just want to have everything tied up in a neat package labelled, The Answer to Everything! Unfortunately real life is not like that; as Charles Schultz, creator of the famous Peanuts comic strip, once remarked through his erstwhile hero, Charlie Brown, "In the book of Life, the answers aren't in the back!" Whether we are believers or sceptics we still have to keep that balance of wonder and reason to stand a chance of discovering the truth about orbs, but even then, as in quantum physics, we always have to allow for the unexpected.

Sceptical Misconceptions

The worst kind of sceptic is not one who intelligently disagrees with you but the one who is both opinionated and uniformed. There have been many sceptical misconceptions about orbs; a wide spread misconception amongst uninformed sceptics is that orbs are only photographed by digital cameras. This is a complete fallacy. Orbs have been photographed by all kinds of cameras: film, digital, analogue video, even by mobile phones and CCTV!

The fact that the majority of people photograph orbs with digital cameras today is solely due to the proliferation of digital technology. Another sceptical misconception is that orbs are merely the result of CMOS errors in digital cameras; this in totally incorrect. The fanciful notion that the same digital error affects every make of camera in the entire world causing them all to photograph orbs, is as unlikely as every Crop Formation in the world being made by two old men with wooden planks! Interestingly we had our first digital camera for two years; we took hundreds of shots but never photographed even one single orb with that camera! If orbs are a digital effect then one would have thought that we would have photographed them

as we were then taking shots of similar subjects in the same places in similar conditions as we did later photographing orbs with different cameras!

Recently at a conference we met a professional photographer who had the latest Nikon digital SLR. He pointed out that according to the sales pitch this camera would not photograph orbs and said that he had never taken orbs with any camera and so was understandably sceptical.

Even so he listened patiently as Katie presented our photographs and related our experiences. Half jokingly he asked how he too could photograph orbs; Katie advised him to just ask! He said he'd give it a go but he had no real expectations. However, the very next day he was back to excitedly show us the photographs of orbs he had taken the night before with a camera that was advertised not to photograph them! This is but one of a number of similar instances we have encountered on our travels.

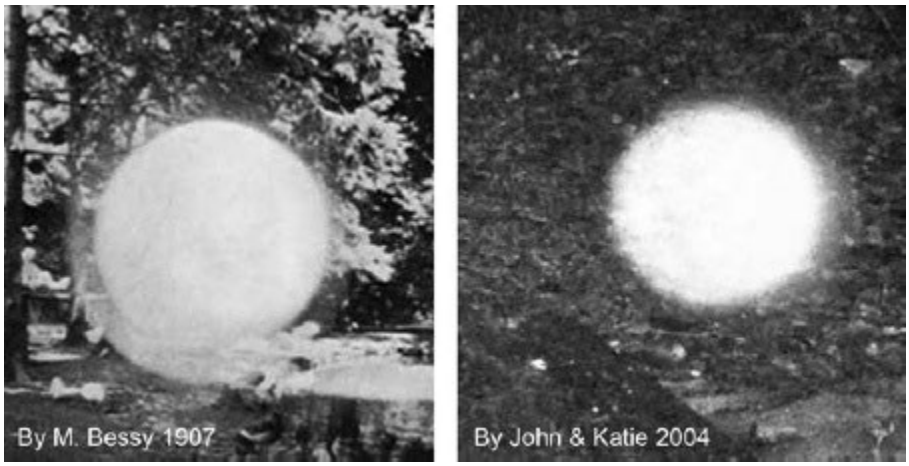
If as sceptics claim they are simply a product of digital photography, why are they discovered on film negatives by people looking back through their old photographs? The fact is orbs seem to have been around a long time, and as we shall see later they go back to before the earliest days of photography; when it comes to orbs we have learned to expect the unexpected!

Orbs Before the Digital Age

Orbs and other strange luminosities have been with us for a long time, much longer than digital cameras or even photography itself, as shown by this Woodcut of mysterious spheres over Basle in Switzerland in 1566.

Woodcut of strange globes seen in Basle, Switzerland, August 1566

Interestingly a few hundred years later Basle was the location for the enigmatic shot below left, one of the earliest photographs of a strange orb-like luminosity. This was taken in the Zoological Gardens in Basle in 1907. Compare this with the photograph opposite it, which is a shot of a similar luminosity taken by us in our garden in 2004!



There is a long-standing continuity to this phenomenon and today orbs are seen by many as a worldwide phenomenon with paranormal implications. That orbs have impinged on human consciousness as well as the camera is witnessed to by both myths and legends and also by some early science stories involving strange orbs and spheres.

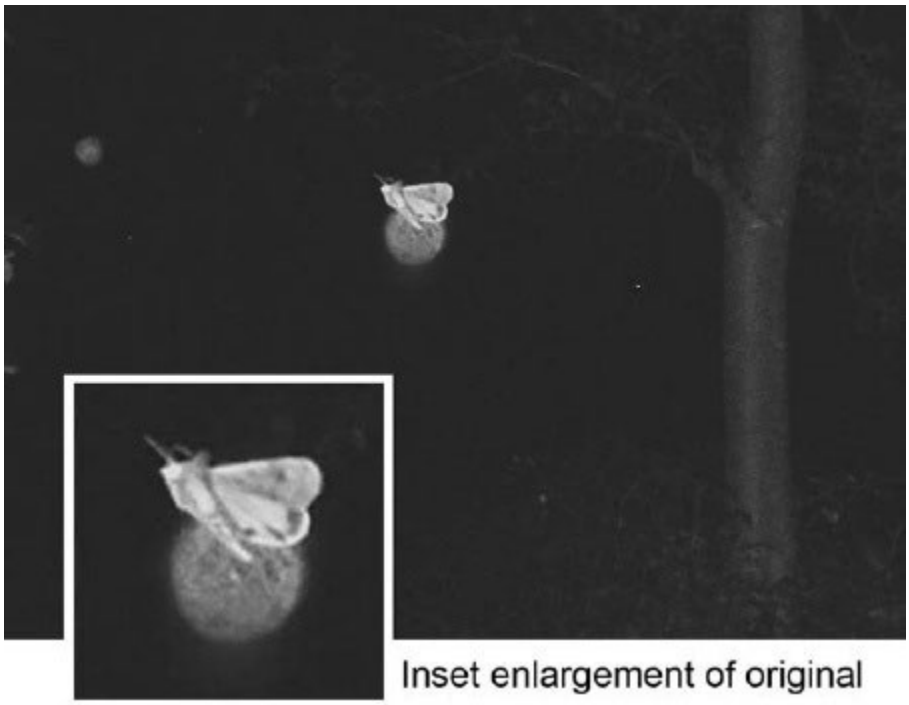
Orbs in The World Beyond the Camera

Most sceptics totally ignore the implications of the visual evidence, especially those convinced that orbs are the result of digital errors. As some of the photographs we, and many others, have taken show orbs have appeared behind objects – and anything behind an element in a photograph is clearly part of the world outside of the camera and therefore not the result of some nebulous digital malfunction. Even if you don't believe orbs to be paranormal it would seem highly unlikely in the extreme that all orbs are the result of some vague digital error that affects all makes of digital cameras in the world. This seems much less reasonable than orbs simply being paranormal phenomenon; plus the fact that orbs appear behind elements in photographs completely cancels out digital malfunctions as a valid explanation anyway.

We have often photographed orbs behind objects and people: for example, here below on the left is one behind our coalscuttle in the front room. One weekend Katie's son Dan came over and earlier that day, being a

photographer himself, he'd asked if we ever got Orbs behind things. We could certainly confirm we did. Following that conversation it seemed synchronistic that later that night we took this shot (below right) in our garden of an orb behind a leaf just above Dan's head!

Some people, and even us at first, wondered if some of the orbs we took outside at night could be insects caught by the flash, but the photograph clearly demonstrates that this is not so for here we can clearly see an orb behind the moth.

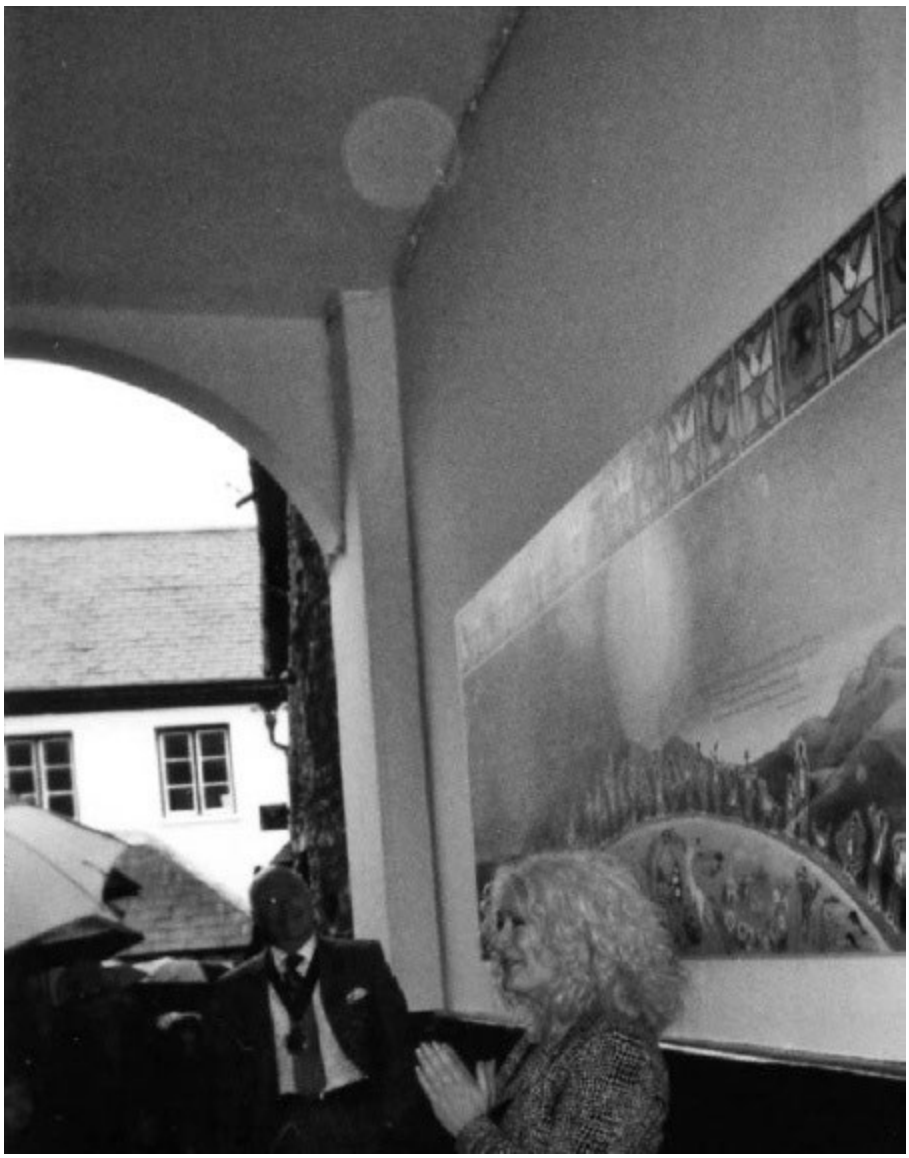


No doubt some circular images, which appear on photographs, may be due to ordinary effects such as sunlight striking the lens, rain drops, reflections, or flash feedback. But it does not take more than simple observation and common sense to realize which photo-anomalies can be explained as ordinary events. What we are concerned with here are those that cannot be adequately explained in such terms. The photograph below was taken at a company's leaving party in 1999 with an SLR film camera, and as you can see there is an orb behind the girl's head.

Here below on the negative we can clearly see that the orb is definitely behind the head of the girl. This convincingly demonstrates that the orb here is not due to dust or moisture in the air, both of which appear in the foreground and not behind elements in the photograph.

To again emphasise the fact that orbs are NOT the result of digital photography, CMOS errors or digital artefacts, here is a photograph taken in 2010 in daylight with a film camera during the official unveiling of the 12 foot long “Spirit of Life” mural, which Katie created for our local Unitarian

Chapel. The photograph was taken by Sally Jones, a member of the congregation.



Light

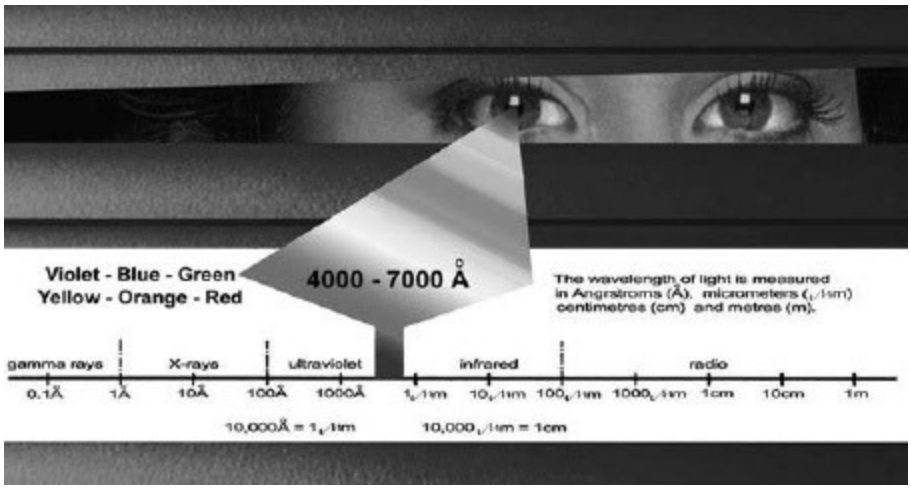
The symbolism of Light has always been a key element in spirituality and the nature of Light has fascinated thinkers and philosophers throughout recorded history. In ancient India of the 5th and 6th centuries philosophers were already developing complex theories about light, for instance, in the

Samkhya school, light was seen as one of the five primal “subtle” elements. The Vishnu Purana (first century BC) referred to sunlight as the “the seven rays of the sun” indicating that even long ago someone must have made the connection with the rainbow and sunlight. By AD 1021, in his Book of Optics the Muslim scholar, Ibn al-Haytham, also known as Alhacen was writing about his own theory of light based on geometry and anatomy. His study of light led him to imagine the pinhole camera, invent the camera-obscura and discover the laws of refraction! Then in the 1660s atomist Pierre Gassendi put forward the particle theory of light which was later taken up by Isaac Newton and incorporated into his exotic but wrong, corpuscular theory described in his Hypothesis of Light published in 1675. But it wasn’t until the quantum mechanical theory of light and electromagnetic radiation came along in the 1920s and 1930s, that it led to quantum electrodynamics, being finally developed during the 1940s. It is this that forms the basis of our current understanding of light and the electromagnetic spectrum. Today, conceptually light years away from Newton’s corpuscles, quantum experiments have revealed that when photons hit objects they transfer their momentum so light can actually push objects in its path in much the same way as wind does. This has raised the exciting possibility of satellites or spacecraft using solar sails powered by photons to move through the solar system.

Everything we naturally see or photograph falls within the visible light wavelength of 4000 to 7000 angstroms, sandwiched between ultra violet and infrared in the electromagnetic spectrum.

If we made a diagram of the electromagnetic spectrum, say, 157 mm long and marked off sections to represent gamma rays, X-rays, ultraviolet, infrared and radio waves, then the visual spectrum (all that is visible to our naked eyes) would represent only a mere 5mm on that scale!

Unaided by technology our ability to detect anything beyond visible light is almost non-existent. The vast expanse of the electromagnetic spectrum is closed to us.



For anything to be seen or photographed, if only for a fraction of a second, it has to be within the visual spectrum and is therefore part of the normal world.

This raises the question as to whether photographs of ghosts, orbs or whatever, can truly be said to be "supernatural" because at the very moment we photograph them, they are already part of our normal reality. But whatever generates the visual interface with our reality to make such phenomena visible to us is beyond detection by methods currently available, and in that sense only, I think, orbs and related phenomena may be legitimately considered to be "paranormal" as and when they are photographed.

Digital Cameras and Infrared

According to some researchers, orbs are shifted towards the infrared, which is the closest detectable wavelength to visible light. Incontrovertibly digital cameras do see much further into the infra-red than film cameras but even so they merely translate infra-red colours into visual spectrum wavelengths.

Red light emits at over 400 billion cycles per second.
Every time you look at red light, your eye receives
over four hundred trillion waves every second!

Wavelengths too short for us to see are “bluer than blue”. This is called “Ultraviolet” light.

Wavelengths too long for us to see are “redder than red”. This is called “Infrared” light.

Your TV remote emits an infrared beam, and if you photograph that beam it will reproduce as white on your image. This has led some to the view that when we get white orbs on our photographs, such as the daylight luminosity below spotted flying through our woodland, that what we are actually seeing are infrared entities fleetingly captured by the camera.

Is There a Physical Theory for Orbs?

Some believe orbs to be the visible signs of something impinging on our visual reality from the infrared. Some have speculated that more orbs are photographed at dusk because of the higher content of carbon dioxide released into the air by plants at that time. Both these notions are worth more investigation but the theory, which seems to fit most of the observed

physical characteristics of the phenomenon, is the idea that orbs may be plasma concentrations, akin to ball lightening.

Ball lightning is well recorded all across the world and the most credible physical explanation for it so far, is the idea of electrically propelled plasma concentrations.

The basic premise of plasma theory relating to orbs is that orbs are complex plasma structures, which may become visible when exposed to large quantities of photons such as are emitted from a camera flash. The instant you fire your flash, electrons in any directly facing plasma concentration move instantaneously to a higher energy orbit when struck by the photons from the flash. When these now highly charged electrons return to their original orbit, new photons (light) are instantly released. This is known as luminescence. All this happens within microseconds and the luminescent plasmas are captured as orbs by the fortunate photographer.

In terms of a purely physical explanation this seems reasonably credible.

Unfortunately the plasma theory does not explain the repeated purposeful behaviour and synchronistic interaction of orbs and luminosities with human beings. Neither does it explain the photograph below: luminescent plasma, energised by the photon blast of the camera flash would be in the foreground, not behind the foliage as we see in this instance.

Getting Orbs in Focus

Considering all the above evidence that we have briefly noted here we can reasonably say that there are two distinctive features concerning orbs:

1. The consistent ubiquity of orbs.

Thousands of individuals all over the world are photographing the same phenomenon with different cameras in widely different conditions.

2. The vast majority of orbs cannot be adequately explained in prosaic terms, i.e. they are not dust, moisture, digital errors or the planet Venus etc.

Some New Age Notions About Orbs

Since our book Beyond Photography was first published there are now all kinds of theories and beliefs about what exactly orbs are; some believe orbs to be departed spirits; some claim to see faces in orbs or scenes from past times; others see orbs as manifestations of Telluric (earth) Energy. Along with Ufology we now have what could be called, Orbology!

Once the existence of orbs had filtered into the "New Age consciousness" it was almost inevitable that someone with an eye on the market would link orbs to angels or faeries or even aliens. Because orbs appear in many colours, some have even attached a bogus significance to this and have tried to relate the colours of orbs to what they claim are the colours of certain Angels. From there it was only a small step to then state categorically that orbs are Angels! Ipso facto – case closed! Some things are possible, others are less probable. There is nothing wrong with people believing that orbs may be angels, spirits or faeries, tree divas, or whatever, but if we get too dogmatic about any of this it would seem, to me at least, to be less than intellectually honest in the circumstances, as there is no evidence whatsoever for certain colours in the spectrum relating specifically to particular Angels. For one thing, the existence of aliens or angels in the way some people portray them is seriously open to question anyway. I'm inclined to believe that the angels as described in the Bible relate to

something real – but there is no evidence whatsoever that certain colours in the spectrum relate specifically to particular Angels. It's all purely arbitrary and in some cases it seems to be complete fiction! You may as well believe all red orbs are Santa's elves or that different colours relate to various flower faeries or that grey orbs are alien greys. We can consider many possibilities – but we have to bear in mind that wonder must be balanced by reason!

We ourselves use words such as "sprites", "light beings" etc. but we are always careful to point out that the terms we use to relate the phenomena we have encountered are descriptive only, not definitive! We are careful not to label orbs categorically as angels, elementals, divas or any other kind of popular entity simply because we realised a long time ago that whatever we may think we know, the truth is always more. From our own experience of this phenomenon, none of those labels adequately define it anyway.

Most experiences of the paranormal are entirely subjective; orbs in particular have different meanings for different people. Beware of those who are too prescriptive; it is all too easy to get hooked up on labels. Indeed labels are very useful, as long as we remember that is all they are. Food manufactures, for example, are careful to know all the ingredients before applying the label.

THE ENCHANTED GARDEN

This photograph of Katie that opens this chapter was taken in our garden one afternoon in spring 2004 with a Pentax MV1 SLR film camera, without flash, using the 1:2 50mm standard lens.

This shot uniquely captures the essence of our enchanted garden.

The majority of our outdoor photographs of orbs and related phenomenon (which we shall look at later in this book) have been taken in and around our garden and woodland.

To one side of our drive, an old millstream runs through that part of the garden which backs onto woodland. The first plank bridge over the stream leads directly into a small glade which Katie named “The Faerie Dell” from

the moment she first saw it, three years before we began to photograph orbs there. It seems quite coincidental that we have taken many incredible otherworldly photographs in or near to the Faerie Dell.

Above are two typical shots taken in the Faerie Dell: daylight luminosities and orbs at dusk.

Below (left) is the garden stream in daylight and (right) at night with a small group of luminosities.

Above are two photographs, taken on two separate occasions, of the old cherry tree at one end of the Faerie Dell, as you can see at both times there were orbs and luminosities around it.

Below is a photograph I took two years ago one autumn afternoon of Katie and two visiting friends in the Faerie Dell. The day was dry but cold. The small lights Katie saw in the air showed up as an elongated anomaly accompanied by orbs and an ethereal mist that was not visible at the time.

The above shot, which I took of Katie walking through the Faerie Dell, not only shows a whole gathering of orbs it makes an interesting point about the phenomenon. As you can see there are several large orbs that are behind smaller, brighter orbs.

If night time orbs are, as some sceptics claim, simply the result of moisture or pollen in the air, then the motes of pollen or moisture nearer to the camera would always be larger and always in the foreground. But in this photograph the small brighter orbs are seen clearly in front of larger, dimmer orbs; this shows that the large orbs are actually further away from the lens, even though they are considerably bigger. This is one of many shots which, if we look at them carefully, are evidence that orbs are not

adequately explainable in terms of moisture or pollen, or has we have seen earlier, not in terms of insects either. Something else is happening here.

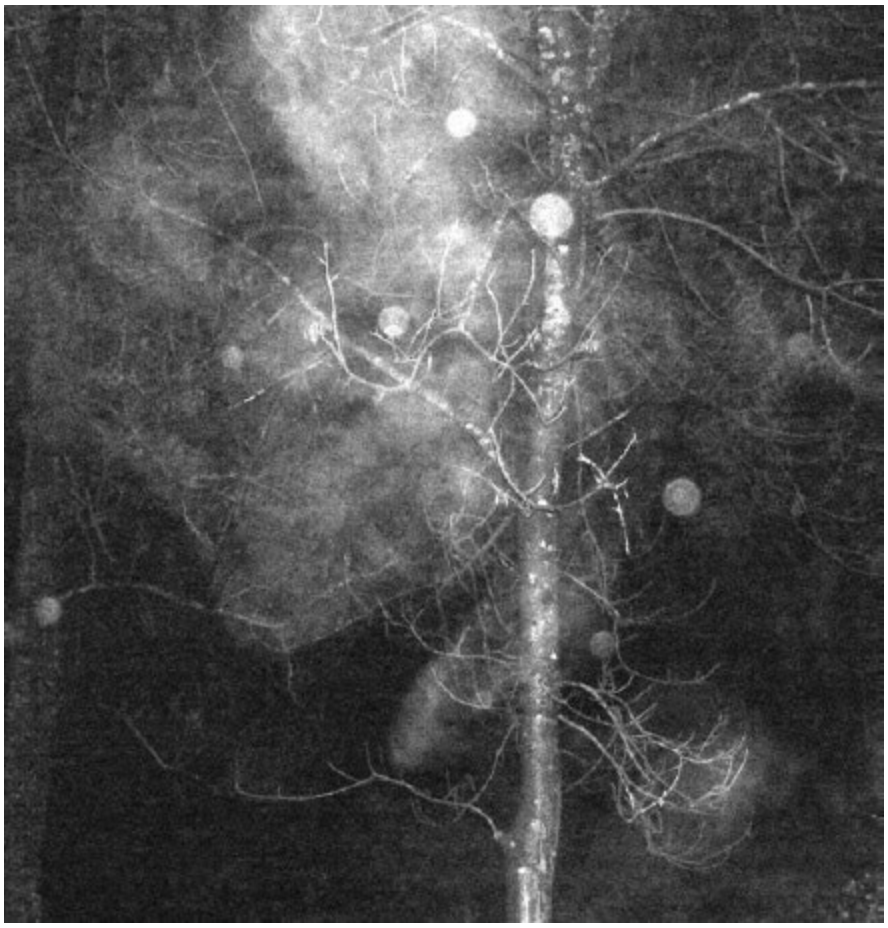
Looking north towards the house from the Faerie Dell this summer evening shot shows numerous orbs around the ash tree in the centre of the Dell. You can see the gables of the house and our South facing veranda in the background.

Where we live was once the home of an English Lord, this is a classical style country home built in 1833, and would have been home to both the family, their servants and gardeners. The original gardens were landscaped in the style of the period with various imported shrubs and trees such as the large Redwood at the bottom of the drive. The gardens are much less now, the original layout having changed over the years due to nature and lack of regular maintenance, which has resulted in an enchanting mixture of an established Victorian garden merging into undergrowth and wild woodland. It is in this enchanting place that we have taken the vast majority of our photographs. Here below are two shots of orbs taken by the little bridge into the Faerie Dell. Below left is a blue daylight luminosity taken one afternoon, without flash, from inside the Dell. Below right is a night shot of Katie with orbs having just crossed the bridge and heading back towards the drive.

We have taken many shots of clouds, flocks or gatherings of orbs, in or around the Faerie Dell. There is no pattern to this – except that even on evenings when we have been out to take shots and got nothing at all – invariably when Katie steps onto the bridge to take one final shot before leaving the Dell, she consistently gets one parting image of an orb or luminosity. This rarely works for me, but always happens for Katie. Perhaps this is because she always asks for one to appear as she leaves the Dell and always give thanks when it does. Katie called this place the Faerie Dell, long before we began to photograph orbs. But judging by the consistency and number of orbs, luminosities and other amazing Light-forms we have photographed and encountered there, it has truly lived up to its name. We often wonder if those who lived here before had also felt this to be a special place. Indeed that whole part of the woodland has that magical feel of a betwixt and between place: an enchanted place where mysterious events may occur at any moment! Indeed, sometimes the air there is full of orbs; here below is a typical gathering of orbs in the Faerie Dell.

The shot below of a single luminosity crossing the Faerie Dell was taken without flash on a summer afternoon using my Pentax Optio 30 digital camera. It reminds me of the previously shown image taken in 1907 of luminosity in the Basle Zoological Gardens.

This striking shot below, taken by Katie, of orbs and vapour around the ash tree in the centre of the Faerie Dell is evocative of the notion of tree spirits and the idea of the “Fairy Tree”. According to legend faeries are associated with trees, especially thorn, hazel, elder, rowan, oak and ash, most of which grow in or around the Faerie Dell and woodlands.



Sometimes it is easy to believe we are in the enchanted abode of dryads: at the edge of the old tangled woodland with its shades and shadows just beyond the Faerie Dell. It certainly is a “magical place” in which we have seen and photographed not only orbs, but other extraordinary phenomena which we shall look at later in this book.

CATS' EYES AND ORBS

The cat's eye view of orbs and how we photographed what our feline friends were seeing.

Whenever we went out into the garden or woodlands to take photographs, our cats would always tag along; from the very beginning they were enthusiastic participants in our "orb hunting" endeavours. Although we did not realise it at first there was a good reason for this.

Throughout history, cats have been seen associated with magic, the occult and psychic powers. In ancient Egypt cats were sacred to Bastet, the cat-headed goddess of protection also known as The Eye of Ra. The ancient Egyptians venerated cats as divine animals, something most cats

automatically take for granted. Someone once remarked, “Dogs have owners, cats have servants”!

Cats are traditionally credited with psychic abilities – ours certainly knew when there was a chicken in the fridge, but whether or not that had much to do with the spirit of a departed chicken is very much open to question. We had to chain up the fridge to stop them getting into it anyway. Thomas, Oscar and Baggy were certainly masters of improvisation – but did they really have psychic senses? Did they know when orbs were about? We began to have our suspicions.

Here below is a shot of Thomas, the first cat that we photographed in the act of seeming to notice an orb. Was it just coincidence? Apparently not, for thereafter we got more shots of our cats appearing to see or interact with orbs and luminosities.

Thomas died of old age about a year after the above photograph was taken but Baggy and Oscar continued to dedicatedly follow us around the woods, probably wondering why we never caught any mice. However, we did now catch many shots orbs with the cats. The photograph below is interesting because it demonstrates something that happens fairly frequently: the number of orbs matching the number of people in the shot – or this case, person and cats.

Over the years it has been Oscar, our ginger tom who seemed to be most attracted to whatever orbs were around. Perhaps he thought he could catch them? As these shots show, he always managed to get into the picture somehow, and at times seemed to be deliberately looking for orbs.

Perhaps when we notice cats staring intently at something that's apparently not there… perhaps they are really looking at something that actually is there, even though we may not see it at the time. The fact that whenever the cats seemed to be looking at something, if we managed to take a shot we would consistently photograph orbs in their line of vision, seems more than coincidence.

The above shot of Oscar and the one opposite were taken the same evening. In the above photograph he is definitely reaching for something, perhaps even playing with, the orbs above the fence post and in the photo opposite he certainly seems to have noticed the remaining orb to the left, for he turned at that point to look back at something. Of course, our cats are not the only animals to be photographed apparently seeing such phenomenon. Quite a lot of people have shown us or sent us their own photographs of dogs, birds and even horses, which appear to be looking directly at orbs or luminosities.

What does this tell us about the phenomenon of orbs?

Firstly it tells us that orbs are probably something real – they are visible, not just for some humans with cameras, but are detectable by other species too.

Secondly, whatever meaning we may attach to orbs, is purely arbitrary and subjective to the human condition – for other species seeing the same

phenomenon it may have no more meaning than say, watching a leaf blowing in the wind.

On a purely physical level, as mentioned previously, if orbs are possibly electrically propelled plasmas similar to ball lightening, it is then quite feasible that animals, which are much more sensitive to electromagnetic changes than we are, could indeed be aware, to some degree, of such a phenomenon in their vicinity. In metaphysical terms we perhaps should not be too surprised if animals can see orbs and other paranormal phenomena, for it is possible, as both metaphysics and quantum physics indicate, that all things are connected, then such phenomena may simply be a visual aspect of a connective consciousness linking all life.

SEEING THE LIGHTS

Many people photograph orbs, but there is one factor, apparently discovered by accident, that led to many of the astounding images we have taken. In brief it is this: Years before Katie and I met, when she was going through a particularly troubled time, Katie asked the universe, or God or the good forces at work in the world for help, not only for herself, but also for others who may be going through similar bad times. One day, soon after this period of asking, Katie was suddenly aware of something that had never happened before, she began to intermittently see tiny twinkling lights that appeared in the air, then soon also on her artwork and around people. At first she thought she had a problem with her vision, or worse, so she went and had herself medically checked out.

There was nothing physically wrong.

Even so, these tiny neon pink or sometimes electric blue lights persisted; eventually she got used to them, but it was only later she discovered that certain other people also saw them. Especially people involved with holistic healing such as aromatherapy or Reiki. It wasn't until a few years later that Katie and I first met. After about a year or so we decided to make our home together and so Katie moved in with me and the three cats. She instantly loved the house with its gardens and woodland. It wasn't until four years later, one afternoon, some months after orbs first started to appear on our photographs, and we were still wondering what they were, that Katie was in the sitting room with her camera when she saw her tiny twinkling lights. Instinctively and quickly she took a shot in that direction. The result was the photograph below which was taken without flash.

Fortunately Katie had now discovered a vital connection: her tiny twinkling lights were actually photographable! We began to experiment and after taking further shots we found that wherever Katie saw her little lights we would fairly consistently photograph orbs or luminosities! We were now both convinced that this was no mere chance coincidence.

However, such tiny lights are not unique to Katie. Many healers and psychics also see them. Tiny twinkling lights are often reported as common during healing sessions or times of meditation; some refer to them as Prana, others as Chi Energy. In metaphysical terms, an appearance of small lights over or around people and other living things is often linked to consciousness or to the energy field around the body. The fact that all over the world many have reported orb phenomenon to be interactive and also to evidence purposeful behaviour would seem to qualify some kind of connection between these tiny lights and orbs.

Small Transient Light Phenomenon

We eventually termed these brief tiny lights, “Small Transient Lights” or STLs. This gave us a totally new perspective by which to evaluate the phenomenon of orbs; it also helped us to take many photographs of them whenever Katie saw STLs. The photographs on the next pages demonstrate how working together we were able to take many shots of the STLs as Katie saw them at the time which were then instantly reproduced as orbs or luminosities on our photographs. This also eventually resulted in other extraordinary light phenomenon shown later in this book.

In the above photograph Katie is looking towards what she saw as tiny twinkling lights (STLs); following her lead I quickly took this photograph in which they were reproduced as orbs. You will notice that there is an orb

behind the fence post. (Again more evidence that orbs cannot simply be written off as dust, moisture or digital errors.) However, this did not work every time (probably because I was not quick enough to take the shot before they'd moved on or disappeared), but it worked consistently enough for us to become convinced there was a direct connection between STLs and orbs. Since we first highlighted this in Beyond Photography, other people, who also see STLs, have reported similar synchronicity occurring when taking photographs. From all accounts seeing these small twinkling lights, either directly or in peripheral vision is common for many hundreds of people; not only for those involved in meditation, healing or spiritual practices.

The fact that STLs can be photographed as orbs means this is a real external visual phenomenon: something in the visual spectrum that can be both seen and recorded. From my point of view STLs are a natural phenomenon with paranormal implications; in that sense I do not consider them to be "supernatural" in any way whatsoever. Everything we see and experience, even the extraordinary, is part of natural existence; something only becomes "paranormal" when we cannot account for it in terms of our understanding of physics and normality at our level of reality. If we accept there is a wider, beyond reality, that interfaces with our own and of which we are but a small part, the concept of the supernatural becomes redundant; everything is natural – we simply just need to understand it better than we do.

The chances of STLs being repeatedly photographed as orbs by sheer random coincidence seemed highly unlikely. It was much more probable that STLs were a real visual spectrum phenomenon. The fact that they are photographed as orbs when hit by the photon burst from the flash did lend credence to the theory that whatever generates them manifests at our level of reality as small plasma concentrations, but of course that is not the complete picture anymore than the photograph of a human face is the complete picture of the living individual person.

The photo above shows Katie at one side of the Faerie Dell about to photograph “little lights” and an orb, to the right in the middle distance, I took it just before she pressed the shutter. The photograph below shows the photograph Katie took of me at the other side of the Dell with the orb to the left in the middle distance. Was this the same orb?

If you too occasionally see tiny sparkles of light or a brief flash in your peripheral vision and have wondered what it is – you could try photographing it, as we have done; the chances are that you'll get orbs or other luminosities appearing on your own photographs.

The two photographs immediately above were taken in 2013, so we can clearly see that since we first photographed Small Transient Lights nearly ten years ago, the visual STL phenomenon has remained consistent: when photographed it still reproduces as orbs.

To round off this chapter here below is a stunning blue luminosity I photographed in the air between Katie and myself. The two small “orbs” (bottom right) are simply the reflective eyes of Baggy, our black cat. What he thought of our camera flashes going off I’m not sure, but he often managed to get into the picture; as he was black as night you never knew where he was going to pop up. Our cats loved being in the Faerie Dell, it was the first place they would make a beeline (or is that catline) for and interestingly the number of twinkling little lights in the air have always been more numerous and more consistent there than any other place in the garden.

AN INTERACTIVE PHENOMENON

When I took this photograph of Katie in a new pink dress we weren't surprised to see the small orb on the floor, because when I took this shot, for months this was the only room in our home where orbs appeared. You could hardly take a shot in there without orbs on the image.

For months, no matter how we tried shots in other rooms, orbs only appeared in our sitting room. We just couldn't photograph them anywhere else either indoors or outdoors. It was this anomaly which initially led us to investigate the phenomenon and to eventually rule out possible obvious causes such as dust, moisture, lens flare, digital processing errors etc. This was an exciting time of discovery for us but nevertheless it also gave a couple of our relatives cause to believe there was a quite ordinary explanation for the orbs photographed in our sitting room.

Our more sceptical friends had decided it was definitely reflections from the mirror (see photo above left) that was causing the orbs on our photographs. As you can see from the photograph (above left), this wasn't such an unreasonable idea in the circumstances.

So one evening we had our two sceptical relatives, plus partners, over for dinner, after which we removed the mirror and all tried taking shots with different cameras. They had brought their own. It seemed a good way to put us and orbs to the test; they were more than quietly confident their theory would be proved right. Accordingly, we all took shots with three digital cameras and guess what – no orbs! For the sceptics the case seemed to be closed – it was the mirror after all.

However, we knew the phenomenon a little better by then and suggested taking another couple of shots. We now got a few orbs above Katie as shown (above right). Notice the bright white one sitting nicely between the clock and the Egyptian cat on the left, almost mimicking the two smaller blue glass decorative balls on the shelf. If you didn't know it was an orb, you'd think it was just another crystal ball we had on our mantelpiece, but it wasn't! Also notice the other smaller white orb positioned between the two ornamental discs on the right, just below the mantel shelf. Again one could be forgiven for thinking it was part of the decoration, but it wasn't!

Katie's brother, Sam, who was the chief sceptic at that time, looked at the few orbs on our photograph, then jokingly, but a bit grudgingly, said, "Okay, then – but I'd be more impressed if you got a whole roomful."

At the time this was exactly the wrong thing for a sceptic to say!

For on the very next shot, that is exactly what we got – a whole roomful! We were all completely astounded, even us! This was such an amazing, immediate and pointed response to Sam's challenge that even our sceptics got goose bumps!

Notice that the orb that was between the clock and the cat on the mantelpiece has now moved and so has the smaller one that was on the right below the mantel shelf. Had they gone or were they now part of the 200 or more orbs that now filled the room? This was very encouraging and we all set about taking more shots, even the sceptics, but very pointedly, even with three different cameras flashing for the next hour or so, we simply got no more photographs of orbs that night. It really was as though something had made a statement! The orbs had been challenged and had unequivocally answered. This event left us all tingling with the exciting

possibility that we had just encountered a conscious interactive phenomenon from beyond our normal reality that also seemed to have a distinct sense of humour.

In this next batch of photographs we shall look at how orbs seem to interact closely with people; particularly with Katie. Interestingly the next four shots (below) show orbs near to Katie in roughly a similar area in all four instances. Sometimes they definitely seemed to be following Katie around with such consistency that we could not help but feel this was some form of purposeful interaction.

Sometimes they seemed to have a sense of humour – as this “family photo” (above) shows. And occasionally, as shown in the photograph below of Katie and her mum, they seemed to be playing hide and seek. Was this just our interpretation or was it really purposeful behaviour? We noticed that the instances of apparent purpose, interaction and synchronicity certainly began to increase.

Above are two photographs taken on the same night, literally seconds apart with orbs directly over Katie and Baggy (only just visible in the grass) in the Faerie Dell. It is interesting to note the fact that the orbs are overlapping in the left hand image; this indicates real visual objects that to some extent

have density and colour, otherwise there would be no tonal difference. The effect is like two disks of tinted glass partially overlaid one on the other.

“Mmm, that looks interesting!” This photograph (immediately above) shows a tiny bright bluish orb close to Katie and her friends, Wendy and Carol. Whilst they are looking at photographs of other orbs on Katie’s camera taken that night, this small orb appears to be moving around them as though inquisitive. I did not see it and none of them were aware it was there at the time, it simply showed up on the photographs. The right-hand image is lightened slightly.

A few years earlier, one weekend when Wendy was visiting I took this photograph of Katie and Wendy walking through the woodland. I wasn't using a very high spec camera and it was running out of battery so when we checked the shots we were surprised to see this strange tailed sphere apparently just floating between Katie and Wendy. Yet again synchronicity was at work for although neither Wendy nor I knew it at the time, this strange sphere was particularly meaningful for Katie because it vividly recalled a recurring dream she'd had many years before in which a very similar but much larger floating sphere played a key role.

Another interesting aspect of the phenomenon is that sometimes we get orbs or luminosities forming what looked like geometric configurations. One of the most common is triangular configurations. Here below are a couple of examples of orbs forming triangles around Katie.

Below is another triangular configuration, again around Katie, on the little bridge over the stream leading to the Faerie Dell, this was taken on the same night as the photo above right. In the next chapter we shall look at this location again for it was on that same bridge that we photographed one particular orb configuration that mirrored something that was literally quite astronomical.

COSMIC CONNECTIONS?

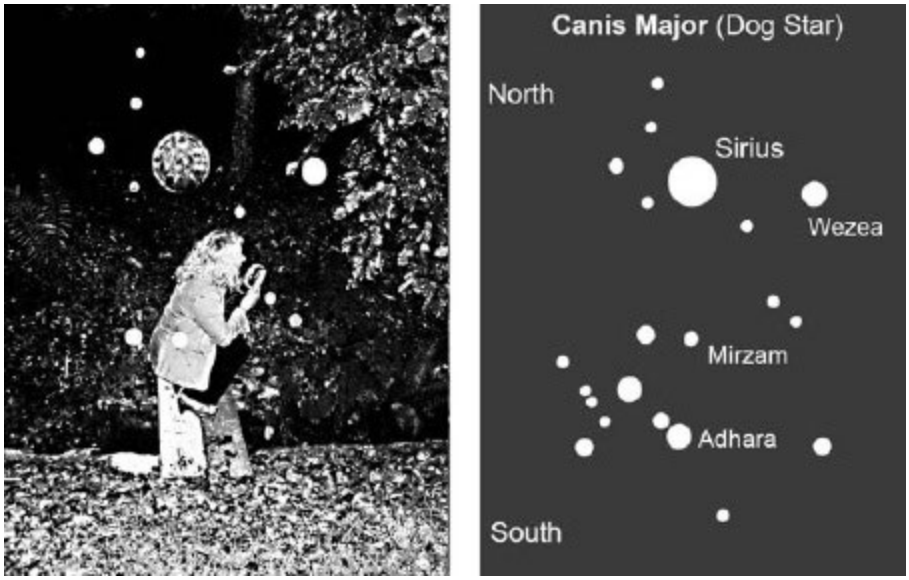
This shot was one of many taken in September 2004, but it wasn't until the first week in November that we had time to look through them on the computer. We may not have seen any particular significance in it then, except for the events of the previous evening.

That evening it was an absolutely clear night – brilliant for star gazing. We were sitting out on the veranda watching the night sky. Above the trees we could see the constellations of Orion and Canis Major, with Sirius the Dog Star shining bright. Suddenly out of nowhere came an even brighter light moving through Canis Major to finally disappear in the direction of the Eridanus constellation. It certainly wasn't a plane or satellite, we had no

idea what it was – and so in effect, as far as we were concerned it was a UFO.

The next morning we had decided to check through the backlog of September shots now on the computer, it was while we were doing that we noticed that on one shot and couple of others the orbs looked as though they were not completely random. They seemed to be in some kind of pattern. The more I looked at one shot in particular the more vaguely familiar it seemed to be. Katie said, "It's almost like we should join up the dots!"

An incredible thought suddenly occurred – what if they were not just random orbs?



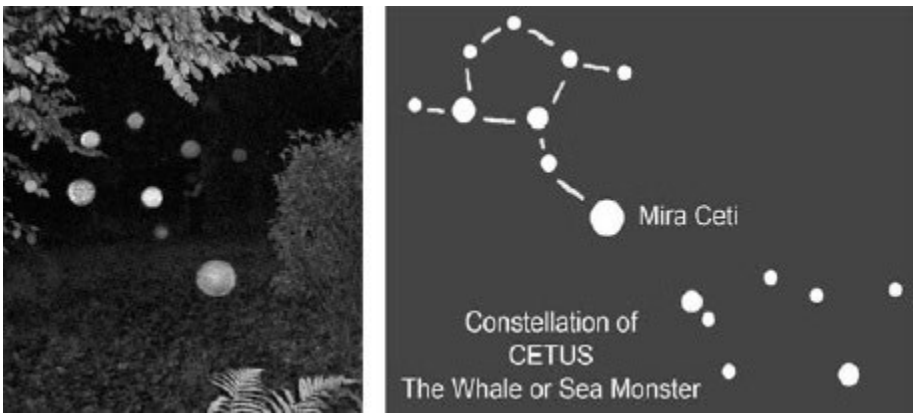
Quickly reducing a couple of the pattern-like images to fit on an A4 sheet, I then increased contrast and brightness and printed them out. (The above image on the left is the photo-effect version of the original photograph on the previous page.) Next I made a tracing of each one and with no clear idea except Katie's "join up the dots". I pulled out some astronomy books and began to compare these with the star maps. It took some time – but eventually we discovered that the orbs pattern matched, almost exactly, 11 out of the 21 stars in the constellation Canis Major! Of course it did; it was so obvious! Katie had been on the right track. Why hadn't I seen it right from the first? We thought of the bright UFO we had seen only the previous night passing through Canis Major, and yet – this synchronistic photograph

was taken nearly a month before! What was happening? The implications here were beyond anything we could have expected.

This wasn't just another photograph of orbs – was it some kind of connection, perhaps some type of communication across time and space? We didn't know, but whatever it was, something incredible was happening. What with this and other events there were now far too many interactive anomalies and synchronicities attached to orbs to ignore the increasing possibility of there being some kind of consciousness at work through this phenomenon.

But the orb configuration that reflected the Canis Major constellation was not the only strange pattern we unearthed from our backlog of photographs from that September. There was at least one other that puzzled us, that looked like it should be something, though it was not until 2010 that we finally identified it. Originally I had been looking only at the familiar major star constellations and the Zodiac; because of that I missed it completely. That is, until years later whilst researching something else I was looking through the constellations that made up the 14 sign Zodiac that was first suggested in 1970 – and there it was; as you can now see below the orb configuration on the left mirrors almost exactly a pattern of nine stars in the constellation of Cetus. In Roman mythology Cetus represented the Sea Monster sent by Neptune to devour the goddess Andromeda. The constellation of Cetus spreads across the Southern sky, between Aries and Pisces and is the second sign in the Fourteen Sign Zodiac. Cetus contains the star Mira Ceti, which coincidentally is marked by the largest orb in the configuration and is the brightest star in the constellation. This repeats the pattern in the Canis Major configuration where the largest orb also marks the position of Sirius, the brightest star in that constellation. This would seem unlikely as chance coincidence, but what the relevance is, we do not yet know. One thing is pretty certain, Mira is a binary star, consisting of the red giant Mira A and Mira B, about 200–400 light years away from us. In Latin "Mira" means "wonderful" or "astonishing", and is credited as being first recorded by the astronomer David Fabricius on August 3rd 1596. With the exception of the star Algol, Mira was the first non-supernova variable star to be discovered, and is also the brightest periodic variable in the night sky that is invisible to the naked eye for part of its cycle. It was certainly

invisible to us prior to making the link, years later to the orbs formation shown below.



The two orbs configurations we have mentioned definitely seem to reflect the constellations of Canis Major and Cetus; the largest orb in each case seems to represent the brightest star, but what else, apart from the usual astronomical mythological references, connects both these constellations? And what, we wondered, had any of this to do with us?

All we could do was to check to see if there were any correlations between the two constellations and the brightest stars in each case. In the second century BC, Ptolemy of Alexandria in books VII and VIII of his Almagest, used Sirius as the location for the globe's central meridian and included both stars in his catalogue of 48 constellations. Egyptians of the Middle Kingdom era, based their calendar on the heliacal rising of Sirius (the day when just before sunrise it first becomes visible after moving away from the glare of the Sun), which occurred at the summer solstice, just before the annual flooding of the Nile. Like many constellations both had Latin names and astrological or and mythological connections; both were representations of animals but none of that seemed of any great significance. For what it may be worth we shall note here the main mythological references for both constellations.

Canis Major variously represented the following: a dog that was a gift from Zeus to Europa; or the hound that Diana, the goddess of hunting, gave to her favourite nymph, Procris; or the hunting dog given by the goddess Eos (Roman – Aurora) to Cephalus the husband of Procris, which was so famous for its speed that Zeus honored it by placing it amongst the stars.

Ancient Greek writers, Aratos and Homer referred to Canis Major as one of Orion's hunting dogs pursuing Lepus the Hare or helping Orion fight Taurus the Bull, perhaps reflected by the fact that the stars in Orion's Belt point directly to the star Sirius.

For the ancient Greeks the constellation of Cetus represented the dreadful sea monster that was sent by Poseidon to devour Andromeda, daughter of King Cepheus and Queen Cassiopeia of Ethiopia, who had been forced leave their daughter chained to a cliff as a sacrifice to Poseidon.

In some accounts of this myth the hero Perseus uses Medusa's head to turn Cetus to stone; in others, Perseus kills Cetus with his sword. In any event when Cetus came up to devour Andromeda, Perseus slew the monster and later married Andromeda.

Let us next look at some of the key astronomical facts.

In Canis Major the brightest star is Sirius, 30 times brighter than our sun, and is in fact the brightest star in the night sky; in Cetus the brightest star is the binary Mira, which is also the brightest periodic variable star in the night sky. So a common factor in both constellations is that they contain a distinctively bright star. However, Sirius is very bright, simply because it is closer to us at only 8.6 light years from Earth whereas Mira is much further away, estimated to be 200–400 light years away from our sun.

Both constellations appear in the Southern Hemisphere, although because Cetus is one of the largest constellations, the complete figure is only visible from October to the end of January. Look for the head, which is a circle near the constellation Taurus, with the body stretching towards the southwest. Cetus is in the same region of the night sky that contains other water-related constellations: Aquarius, Pisces, and Eridanus. Apart from Mira there are several other bright stars in Cetus, all at varying distances from Earth; Beta Ceti being the brightest. But the star Tau Ceti is noted for being the nearest stable Sun-like star although it has only about 78 percent of the Sun's mass.

In December 2012 came evidence that possibly five planets orbited Tau Ceti; it is thought that one of these is potentially in the habitable zone.

However, it seems that any planet orbiting Tau Ceti would face far more risk of impact by solar debris than our own planet. Even so because of Tau Ceti's Sun-like characteristics it has been listed as a possible abode of life and is now targeted by the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI). This is of course a long shot, but we may yet be surprised.

Perhaps more importantly, in 2011 the star Sirius in Canis Major was in the news when researchers with SETI using the Giant Arecibo Antenna in Puerto Rico, discovered a signal that lasted for 20 minutes originating from the direction of Sirius. SETI astronomer Doug Holm commented, "The Transmission was within the wavelengths used by Radio Communications on Earth", adding that, "It was constantly changing, but within a regular set of parameters, which is just like a TV show or Radio broadcast from Earth would look if picked up by Radio Telescopes".

Apparently this signal showed signs of being a deliberate transmission. But even though scientists attempted to determine the nature of the transmission, attempts to decode the signal failed.

SETI astronomer Dan Wertheimer explained, "We probably won't be able to decode the Signal. We'll know something's out there, but we won't know much about their Civilization."

That all seemed more interesting but, as far as I can now ascertain, within days of the first announcement all records of the signal from the Sirius region had mysteriously disappeared.

When certain astronomers then attempted to track down the computerized records, reportedly they were officially told to turn their attention elsewhere. A SETI astronomer commented, "I've only seen orders like this once before, and that was when a University Radio Telescope Accidentally Intercepted Coded Signals from the CIA Surveillance Satellite". Then tellingly remarked, "But this was definitely not a Signal that Originated from anywhere near Earth, this Signal originated from the Dog Star Sirius".

In that context I would recommend you go online and check this out for yourself; you could try the Official SETI website or type CSETI into Google and go to the DISCLOSURE PROJECT website.

As mentioned previously before we discovered the strange orb configuration that reflected the constellation of Canis Major, we had witnessed a UFO moving through Canis Major to finally disappear in the direction of the Eridanus constellation. In the light of the SETI signal this now seems even more synchronistic especially as there was already an extraterrestrial connection with the star Sirius.

In the 1930s two French anthropologists, Marcel Griaule and Germain Dieterlen, were living with a West African tribe called the Dogon. Whilst there they recorded four Dogon priests relating their oral traditions, which included the legend that people from the Sirius star system visited Earth thousands of years ago. The Dogon called this race the Nommos: amphibious beings resembling the mermaids and mermen of myth. Similar beings also appear in Sumerian, Accadian and Babylonian myths. In ancient Egypt the Goddess Isis, was at times depicted as a mermaid, and very interestingly she is also linked with the star Sirius. According to Dogon knowledge, which includes a 400-year-old artefact seemingly depicting the Sirius configuration and ceremonies held by the Dogon since the 13th century to celebrate the cycle of Sirius, the star Sirius has a companion star that is invisible to the human eye. This unknown companion star has a 50-year elliptical orbit around the Sirius, is incredibly heavy and rotates on its axis. Amazingly the anthropologists had discovered that locked into Dogon myth and ceremonies was a surprising amount of specific and fairly accurate information about the Sirius star system.

Even though the Dogon had oral traditions and ceremonies relating to Sirius's companion star that stretched back to at least the 13th century, it was not until several hundred years later, in 1844, that German astronomer Friedrich Bessel observing changes in the proper motion of Sirius, deduced that it had an unseen companion. This was not qualified until almost two decades later, when in January 1862, Alvan Graham Clark the American telescope-maker and astronomer first observed the faint glimmer of the companion star that is now known as Sirius B.

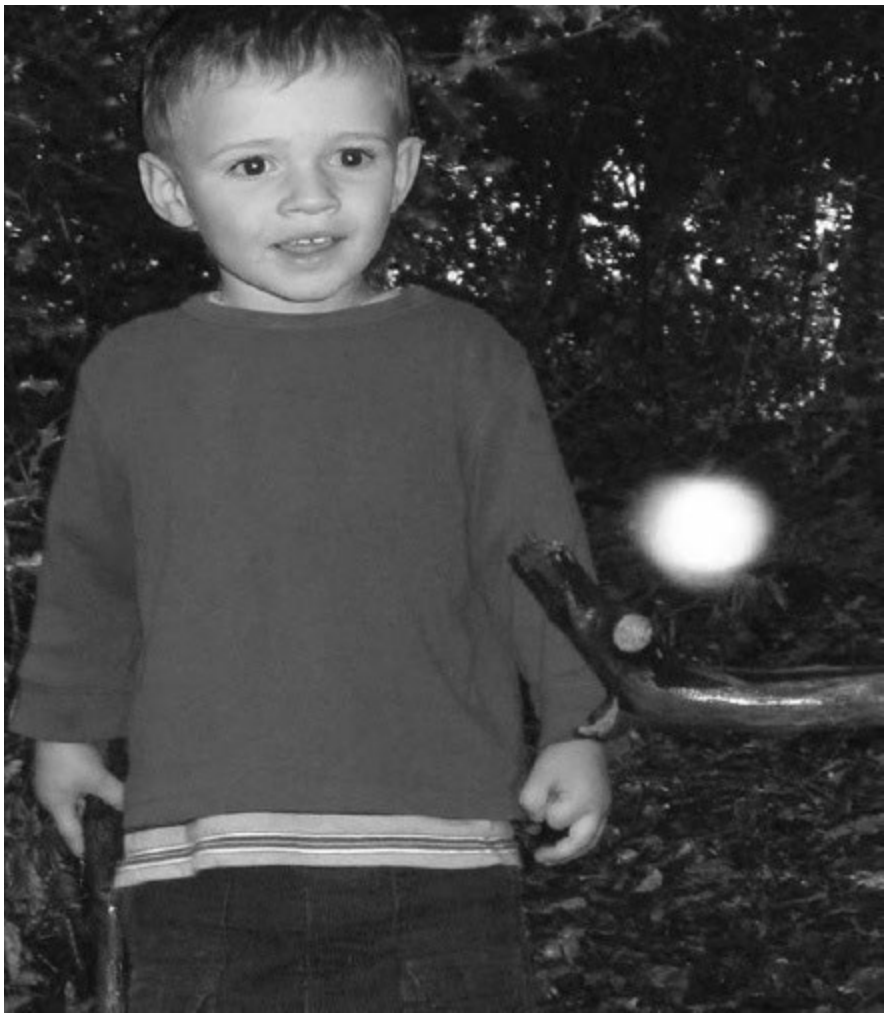
The Dogon legends about the companion star being small but very heavy were amazingly accurate because Sirius B turned out to be a "white dwarf"

star and it was the pull of its gravity that had caused a wobble in the movement of Sirius.

The story of the Dogon and their legends of Sirius first came to popular attention in the book, The Sirius Mystery by Robert K.G. Temple, published in 1977.

However, knowing about Sirius B that was not the extent of Dogon's incredible knowledge about the Sirius star system. According to Dogon legend there is a third star around which the home world of the Nommos orbits. When Robert Temple's The Sirius Mystery was first published there was no solid evidence for the existence of a third star in the Sirius system, so this whole idea was criticised by sceptics. But in 1995 an article by two French researchers, Daniel Benest and J.L. Duvent, appeared in the well revered journal Astronomy and Astrophysics; the title of the article was, "Is Sirius a Triple Star?" Based on new observations of motions in the Sirius system Benest and Duvent suggested the existence of smaller third star that was probably a red dwarf with about only .05 the mass of Sirius B. We now know that Sirius C exists and if we correlate all this with the recent possibly "intelligent" signals picked up from the Sirius system in 2012 by SETI then the Dogon claim that intelligent beings from there visited Earth in the distant past may not be as unlikely as it sounds. Certainly for us the fact that we had photographed two orb configurations that later proved to have such significant astronomical connections is a strong indication that none of this is happening by chance. Even though it is not yet clear to us, and may never fully be clear, there is obviously some purpose connecting all our experiences, events and photographs.

And it is from this point on that we began to travel from orbs to Beyond. Pieces of the Universal puzzle had been falling right in front of us on our own front doorstep; it was time to pick them up and try to figure out where they belonged. For here was an opportunity not just to be bystanders but to be active participants in the Mystery and Wonder of the Universe that we have been privileged to glimpse. In that context the photograph below of our grandson, taken one summer's day during an afternoon stroll through the woodlands with his mum and dad, sums up for me the child-like wonder of encountering such amazing phenomenon and the questions it poses.



By this point in our journey our summary of Orbs and Luminosities was as follows:

a) Evidenced aspects consistently not explicable in ordinary terms.

b) Were related to or generated by Transient Light phenomenon(STLs).

c) Were at times visible to animals and to some people.

d) Evidenced conscious purposeful interaction.

e) Meaningful synchronicity was consistently associated to the phenomenon.

In the context of all the above it was not too surprising when not long after the star configuration appeared our orbs phenomenon began to shift into more exotic forms and images through which we encountered other realities beyond photography. So at this point we shall leave orbs for the moment and move on to look at the visual evidence for an evolving phenomenon, which may indicate the astounding possibility of communication from another aspect of Reality.

PART TWO

BEYOND REALITIES

The photograph above of a “Faerie-like” occurrence was taken in July 2010 and introduces the next phase of events and photographic encounters that began to unfold and which to us seemed to indicate the presence of a “Wider Reality beyond” interfacing with our world. In this part of the book we shall be specifically looking at events and photographs which for us offered compelling evidence that we were encountering something extraordinary. It was this “something” that led us to a wider view of the interconnection of life in all its diversity: of both normal and paranormal

phenomenon, of the reality of synchronicity and its connection to a wider understanding of consciousness.

What is Beyond Reality?

What do we mean by a "Wider Reality beyond"? Before we proceed further it may be useful to more precisely define our terms. As we have mentioned previously we have always been careful to stress that the terms we use in speaking about all the phenomena we have encountered and photographed are descriptive, not definitive. For instance, we may call something a "Sprite" or a "Light Being", but let us be clear – that is not what they are; all such terms are merely labels we have applied to this phenomenon.

Today the new views of a "conscious universe" coming from quantum physics, cutting edge scientific theories about the interconnection of matter and consciousness, what is now thought to constitute the primary fundamental forces underlying existence, has radically changed since the days of Darwin; in fact the all too rather neat idea of natural selection and macro-evolution, in the context of what we now know of quantum realities, no longer seems a completely credible reason for the vast process of Existence.

The Problem of Origins

The main scientific problem for both creationists and evolutionists is that there is no scientific validation for the origins of Life. Scientifically it is impossible to observe or repeat the origins of Life. Science cannot create something out of nothing; all it can do is describe what is and manipulate what already exists. Which is why it is completely incorrect to say such things as, "Life has just been created in a test tube" – all scientists have done is to manipulate the life that was already there. Because of their scientific honesty many scientists today, whilst rightly being advocates of science and scientific methodology, are also realistic enough to be aware of

its limitations and admit that scientific truth is never absolute; it is essentially the best approximation at the time; in most cases it is the one that has proved reliable in terms of the vast majority of physical phenomenon. However, life is full of anomalies both physical and metaphysical. Some of these anomalies seriously call into question long cherished popular scientific theories. Today's quantum physics and genetics present us with a whole range of anomalies, which do not match or support the views of standard 20th- century physics or biology as they are taught in schools and universities. Our increasingly sophisticated technologies for investigating and exploring the cosmos have resulted in new revelations from the furthest reaches of space and from the deepest levels of the quantum universe that do not fit at all with the 19th- and mid-20th-century notions of a completely material mechanistic universe that just happened by chance.

Mirror Universe: A Metaphor

So in that context, what do we mean by a "Wider Reality beyond"? The best way I can convey this is by use of the following metaphor: Let us imagine that the physical, energetic and conscious reality we are all part of is like a mirror. According to the currently acceptable Big Bang theory everything that exists was once one primordial atom about the size of a grapefruit, which then for some unknown reason exploded thus giving rise to everything that now exists: you, me, atoms, stars, galaxies, cats and mice etc. If, metaphorically, we instead then think of that primordial state as one complete mirror that reflects a Reality beyond itself, then even if that mirror is spontaneously shattered into a million pieces, all those tiny pieces of the mirror will still reflect the original Wider Reality. Paranormal phenomena, synchronicity, metaphysical anomalies and experiences that are not explicable in terms of the natural laws and physics operating at our level of Reality, are reflections of that beyond-the-mirror reality interfacing with our own fragment of the original mirror. In that sense we can say that metaphysical and paranormal phenomena may be indications of the existence of a Wider Reality beyond the confines of the physical/energy based universe we inhabit. It is reflections of this Beyond Reality that

strongly pervades the quantum universe, for here, it could be said, we are at the very edge of the interface between the reflection and the Reality. This is why, I believe, the deeper we go into the quantum universe the more physics gives way to metaphysics and we find ourselves in that betwixt and between place at the edge of Existence. This Wider Reality permeates our whole universe; in some areas its reflection is dimmer, in other areas such as in metaphysical and paranormal phenomena and at the quantum level its reflection is more intensely brighter. In those terms we may think of paranormal phenomena as the reciprocal reflections of the existence of a Wider Reality beyond our own!

But of course at the time we were going through our photographic encounters with the phenomenon we had no clear idea what was happening or where it was all going. For over three years the phenomenon continued to unfold into new forms; all of which posed their own new set of questions. However, the longer we studied this phenomenon that more we realised there were consistent and common aspects to all the unfolding events we were experiencing and photographing. These can be summarised as follows:

1. Orbs appeared consistently throughout all the visual forms we were photographing.

2. Once we had photographed one unusual visual form, it repeated numerous times afterwards.

3. Synchronicity was consistently associated to the forms we were photographing.

4. The same forms had been photographed by others independently of us.

5. The unique aspect of our own case was that we were photographing a whole range of evolving visual phenomena that displayed some purpose; i.e. the indications were this was not happening randomly, it was happening due to some internal logical constant.

6. Throughout all its stages the phenomenon showed indications of conscious intent.

7. The phenomenon definitely appeared to be interactive.

In the next chapters we shall look at how this phenomenon unfolded into new visual forms. We first became aware that this was happening when for the first time we began to photograph images that were definitely not orbs. This opened up a whole new Pandora's Box of possibilities.

PHOTOGRAPHING FAERIES?

After orbs there soon appeared other visual phenomena, the first of these were what seemed to be winged faerie-like images. Orbs were one thing but faeries at the bottom of the garden? Well that was something else. Here below is the first photograph of one of those winged things.

Before this first "winged" image appeared we'd only ever photographed orbs in the garden at dusk. Here below are a couple of enlargements, as you can see it isn't a bat or a bird. The critical point is that after this photo similar winged or faerie-like manifestations began to consistently appear on our shots, whereas before we had only photographed orbs.

Below are four more photographs, taken months, or even years apart, of very similar faerie-like phenomenon. Again, like the orbs, they often appeared right next to Katie.

Just as when Katie saw STLs and I photographed them as orbs, now, on occasion they reproduced on our photographs as these faerie-like forms, as in the below left photograph. These faerie-like visual effects persisted until something new came into our focus.

MOVING COLUMNS OF LIGHT

One evening just as it was getting dusk, Katie was in the Faerie Dell when she saw a flash of light moving vertically on the opposite side of the stream. Shooting in quick succession she managed to get a sequence of moving images which showed a column of light moving vertically across the garden. Here below are three shots out of that sequence.

We came to call this new aspect of the phenomenon “Light Rods” and as with the “Faerie-like” images, once we had seen or photographed one such occurrence, others followed and repeated.

As you can see in the above images the Light Rod is moving vertically from right to left in front of the laurel hedge. In the whole sequence the Light Rod next moves back to the right again before disappearing. This new occurrence was totally different to both the orbs and the Faerie-like images but it was a manifestation that intermittently repeated several times in and around the Faerie Dell for quite a few months. Mostly the Light Rods were always moving vertically like moving columns of light but occasionally they could be seen moving horizontally through the trees around the Dell. Initially we did various tests to try to replicate this effect, in case it was due to some natural cause; the obvious suspect was spider webs but we soon ruled out because whatever way we tried to photographed them from every angle they looked nothing like the Light Rods. In the end nothing in or

around the garden could account for this phenomenon; photographically it made no sense in terms of what was naturally there.

Below left, is a lightened and only slightly enhanced photograph of a Light Rod, which gives some idea of its height. The laurel hedge, just to the right of the Light Rod, is approximately five feet high so the phenomenon itself appears to be over six feet tall. The un-enhanced enlargement (below right) shows the glowing middle section, or core, of the Light Rod.

Perhaps it is this glowing core which generates the energy that propelled the Light Rod as it travelled vertically across the ground. Perhaps this moving column of light travels in much the same way an electrically propelled plasma concentration such as ball lightening. Various people have put forward different explanations for our “Light Rods”. These have included geomagnetic energies (often called earth lights), chi energy, and even dimensional portals. We did consider the earth light idea, as where we live is intersected by ley-lines, but as earth lights are mostly thought to be produced by the friction of crystalline rocks rubbing together, such as in a tectonic plate shift, this did not seem likely. The other possibility we considered was the fact that at night there is much more carbon dioxide in the tree level atmosphere than there is during the day, and perhaps this excess of carbon dioxide in some way could be the gaseous medium through which small low level plasma concentrations, being hit by the photon burst from the flash, could somehow be reflected back as vertical

columns of light instead of orbs. However, this idea did not seem to work either as we then began to get photographs of moving Light Rods during the day. So far the jury is still out on what this is, but we still continue to occasionally photograph Light Rods, mainly now moving horizontally, but as and when this happens, it still makes no sense in terms of all the ordinary natural flora and fauna in our garden. Put in context of all our other experiences and photographic encounters here it would seem that whether we understand it or not Light Rods may be part of a continually unfolding visual phenomenon that are indications of the presence of a Beyond Reality interfacing with our own.

THE WATER CEREMONY

Above is a view from the beach on the isle of Iona, it is special place, long valued for its peace and serenity. But the main thing about Iona is that, like all other islands, it is surrounded by water. You are never far from the sound and sight of the ocean. Our world is called Earth – but perhaps it should really be called – "Water World". Water covers two thirds of our planet's surface, making it a bright, beautiful blue sphere in the ocean of space. One of the great mysteries of life on Earth is how water actually got here. So far science has been unable to account for the presence of water on our planet. If the standard scientific view of how our solar system began is correct – then Earth should be a barren rock, like the Moon. In the terrible glare of our sun, Earth could never have evolved an atmosphere. Unprotected by an atmosphere, Earth would have been a scorched world, burnt by the destructive power of the sun's radiation – and yet we have the "Miracle of Water", which underpins all life. In the first verse of Genesis – even before God said, "Let there be Light", we are told that, "The spirit of God moved over the face of the water".

In the Genesis story, water was the fundamental element from which God created the Earth and all life upon it. The first raindrop was also the first prism, which split white light into all the colours of the spectrum and

without water there would be no Rainbow. So we speak of Holy Water, Sacred Water, and the Water of Life!

Dr. Masaru Emoto is a Japanese scientist, internationally renowned for his research work in visually capturing the structure of water at the moment of freezing. His work in showing how positive intention can affect the formation of water crystals has won him world wide acclaim and led to the 'United Nations World Water Day Festival of Love and Gratitude' in 2010.

Masaru Emoto was born in Yokohama in 1943. He was educated in Humanities and Sciences at Yokohama Municipal University; he later became a Doctor of Alternative Medicine, subsequently studying Magnetic Resonance Analysis technology in the United States. Dr. Emoto comments,

From ancient days they say water is the origin of all creation. When you truly understand this and realize human consciousness or word can impact on the structure of water is when you understand all creation is made up with our conscious mind.

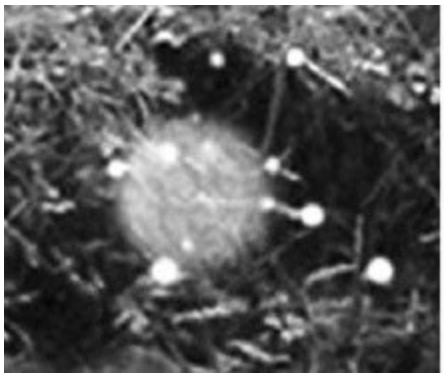
And of his own work he says,

I undertook research of water around the planet not so much as a scientific researcher but as an original thinker, as a human being. At length I realized that it was in the water crystal that water showed us its true nature.

We first heard about Dr. Emoto from our friend Fran, who told us that on July 25th (2005) all around the world there would be a ceremony of "Love and Thanks to Water", inspired by the work of Dr Emoto. We'd only heard about this a week before and it sounded like a good thing to do: focusing on the gift of water and putting out positive thoughts to help clean up polluted water. It seemed at least worth a shot so we decided to join in. But both being busy, we did not remember this until half way through that day. Even so we went down to our stream about 4pm that afternoon and began our meditation. Katie spent more time than me connecting with the flow of water in the stream. As it was a pleasant sunny afternoon, unknown to Katie, I took a few shots to record the event. The above photograph shows that we were not alone; for want of a better term here is what some have described as a little "Water Sprite". Concentrating deeply on her meditation, Katie was not even aware I'd taken this shot, only coming out of it when she became aware that her left hand was freezing cold and other very hot! What this image actually shows is of course open to question but for various reason we believe it to be another instance of a Beyond Reality at work.

Looking closely at this funny little “Sprite” it did rather seem to be mimicking what Katie was doing: she had both index fingers half in the water at the time. Below left is an enlargement of the “Water Sprite” which as you can see was also partly in the water, almost as if it was joining in – or perhaps it was a manifestation of the conscious connection with water itself. Did the fact that humans themselves are approximately 78 percent water have anything to do with the “Water Sprites” appearance during Katie’s intense meditation on water? She was both amazed and excited when I showed her the little Sprite on the camera display screen. I then tried a few more shots around the stream but got nothing. What we did get though was the next photograph (below right) of a wonderful glowing luminosity near the bank of the stream.

None of these photographs were taken using flash, but the glowing luminosity reminded us very distinctly of a similar luminosity we’d photographed one night the previous year – again by the bank of the stream. As you can see if you compare the two photographs below they are very similar, even though the one on the right was taken using flash and the one on the left was not.



The appearance of the Water Sprite and the luminosity on the bank on the very day we were there to join in with Dr. Emoto's World Day of Love and Thanks to Water is highly synchronistic to say the least, and indeed a few years later, the interest generated by this phenomenon led to another water related event inspired by our stream and the little Water Sprite.

Monday, March 22nd 2010 was "The United Nations World Water Day Festival of Love and Gratitude", which took place at Lake Biwa in Japan. By this time we had become members of the Unitarian Movement, and Katie suggested marking this day by holding a Water Meditation at our local chapel. This was an interfaith event to remind people of the precious gift of water and to mention Masaru Emoto's work in gathering people together around places of polluted water to concentrate in positive prayer and meditation that had resulted in restoring the water to a purer state. Here below is a photograph of Katie, at our local chapel conducting the water cleansing with the aid of the minister and two members of the congregation.

Over seventy people, from different faiths and walks of life, attended this simple ceremony to offer prayers of thanks and positive meditations directed at helping polluted water to be made clean again. Katie spoke of the many poor countries where women are the water carriers, not just in terms of carrying the waters of life in their wombs – but by walking miles to get water to drink and to wash. She spoke about the women of the then war torn Iraq, taking water from the rivers contaminated by the phosphorous, used in the bombs dropped there, and how babies were now being born with terrible deformities. We take so much for granted here, simply because here we have clean water on tap, but the fact is we are in the minority of the people on this world. Two thirds of the world do not have clean water on tap, they struggle to get water, they struggle to live.

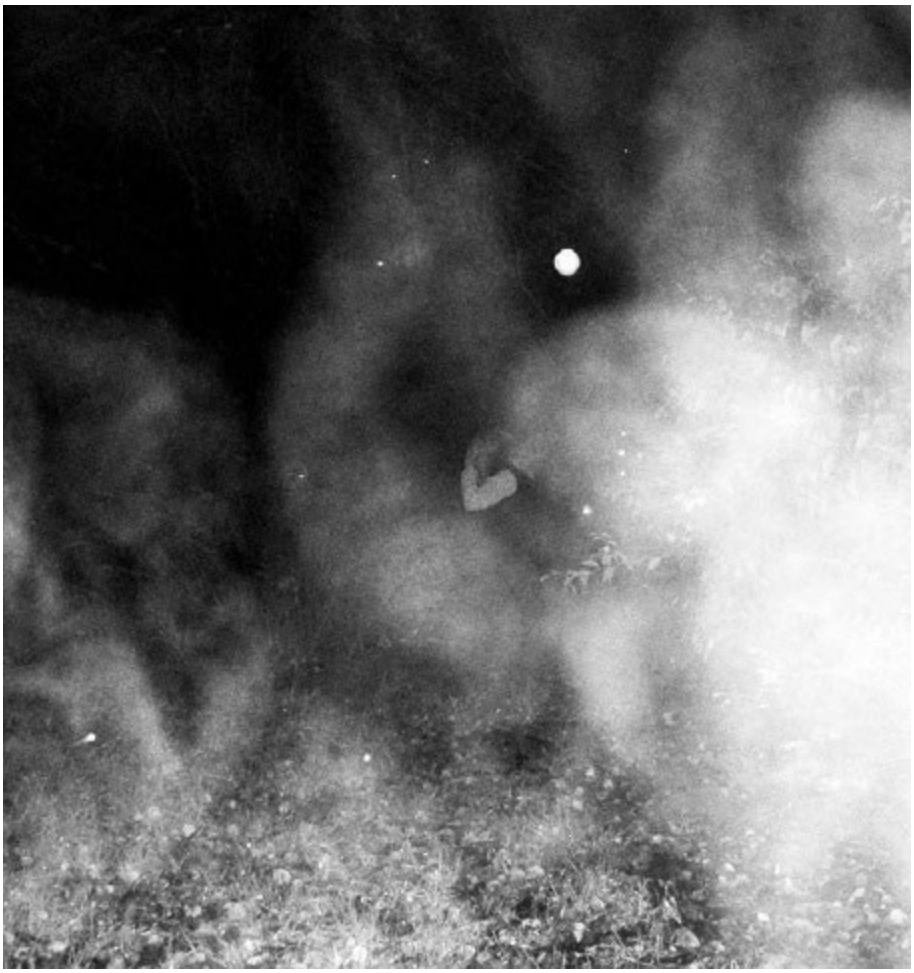
We humans are much like our world. In the womb a foetus is 90 percent water, as an adult our bodies are 78 percent water, and our brains are 80 percent water. We are all linked physically and spiritually to water. Perhaps this is why we are drawn to the sea, to holiday by rivers and lakes. All over our land there are Holy Wells, Sacred Springs and Rivers, places that testify to the reverence our pagan ancestors gave to water. But today our industrial civilisation carelessly pollutes the rivers and the oceans of the world; in fact humankind abuse water, consistently and continually. A few years previously, not long after photographing the little Water Sprite, our own stream, which once flourished with crayfish, became dead and sterile due to farm pollution further up into the fells. After the water ceremony Katie and

other members that were there, took bottles of the positively charged and blessed water and poured it into the sea, a lake, a river, and our stream.

Literally a few months after this we noticed that the stream was alive again; the crayfish had returned and are now abundant there. All this came from that one day back in July 2005 when we went down to our stream to join in with the World Day of Love and Thanks to Water, where we photographed the little Water Sprite. Our encounter with the strange phenomenon in the stream had started a chain of synchronicity that touched other lives in our local community and beyond.

THE LIGHT-FORMS

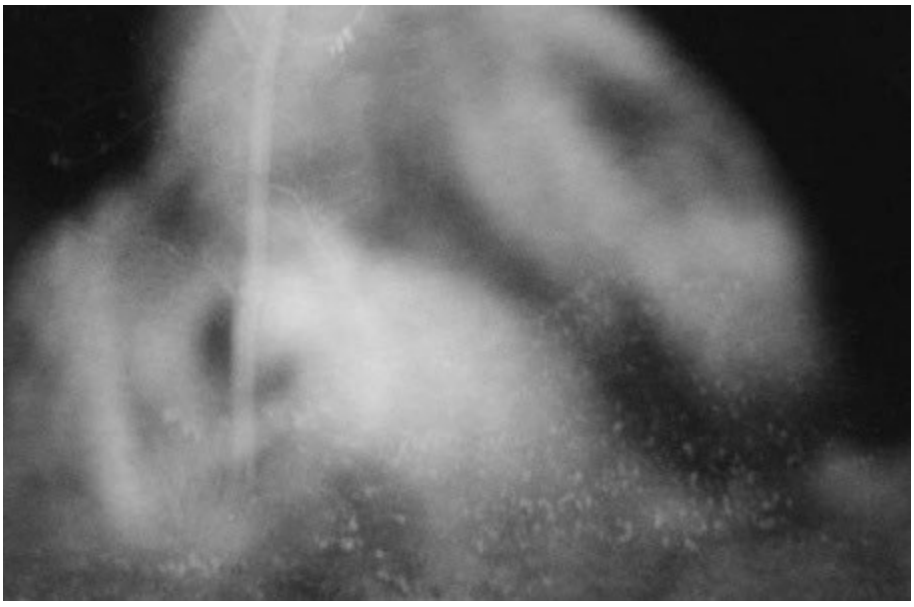
One evening Katie had gone out into the garden alone to take some photographs, as I was busy working on a publishing deadline. Not long afterward she excitedly rushed in to tell me to come out into the Dell – and to be quick! She said something different was happening. All she could see in her viewfinder was white static just like a TV not tuned in. As soon as I entered the Faerie Dell, I could feel it – it felt like a thunderstorm. The air was crackling with electrostatic and Katie was enveloped in a twisting, swirling mist – this was the start of the Light-Forms.



These swirling dynamic shapes we came to call “Light-Forms”, as with our other phenomena, once we had photographed one, they began to recur. The image above and below seem to give the impression of dancing in the air. The same crackling electrostatic in the air Katie had felt during the first encounter was present in many subsequent occurrences but mostly to a much lesser degree, yet each brought with it the same feeling of being on the verge of something not quite real, or beyond our perception of what is real.

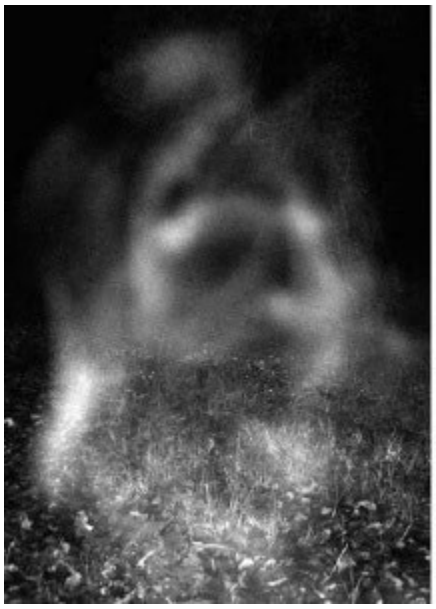
Living in the country we are well familiar with the effects of moisture and mist, and of breath in the air. After taking the next couple of shots we deliberately checked to see if this was the affect of ground mist or breath but it wasn’t. But from then on we made a point of holding our breath in

cold conditions. Whatever they were these Light-Forms were not shapeless mists, they have definite form; at times they are almost like constructed works of art.

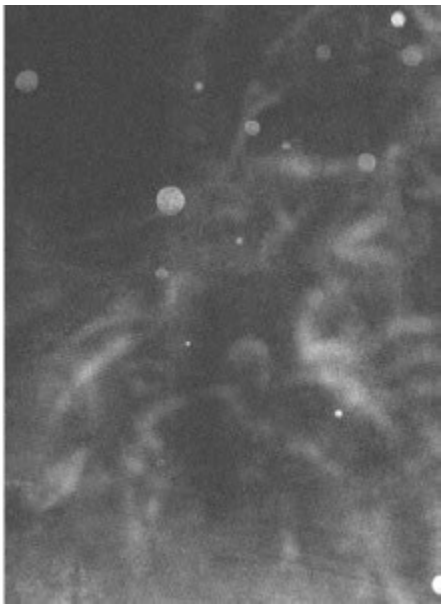


To me the one above looks slightly like the head of a horse and the one below like some kind of insect. You may see other images. Close up they are visually stunning and energetically invigorating; at times it seemed as though we were in the presence of some vital force.

The photographs shown here we have chosen to give some idea of the variety of forms we have taken. At times they seem like dynamic living artwork constantly unfolding into different aspects.



Sometimes, as in the beginning we also photographed orbs appearing alongside or in amongst the Light-Forms. To me the two images below give the distinct impression of flying forms ascending into the night sky, but there again you may see something different.



Over the years the Light-Forms have given way to other phenomena but occasionally they still appear. This was very much an intermediate state in our photographic encounters and if we look back we can see some kind of progression at work from orbs (which are still always there) to the winged Faerie-like forms, to the Light Rods, the Water Sprite and now the Light-Forms. Retrospectively, from this point in time we can now discern an unfolding phenomenon, which we have come to see as indications of a Beyond Reality interfacing with our own level of Reality, but at the time all this was happening we were still trying to make some kind of sense of it as and when it was happening. It was a bit like trying to see the whole picture when actually you are in it and part of it. But instinctively for whatever reasons we seemed to be heading in the right general direction. Certainly by the time Beyond Photography was published in 2006 we had come to understand the phenomenon we were encountering in a much wider context.

As you can see in the two photographs above, both taken on the same evening, there appears to be definite structures that are becoming almost figurative. The one on the left is the first shot and I managed to take the one on the right as the Light-Form occurrence was fading into the night. We did not realise it at that time but the evolving figurative shapes within the Light-Forms were heralding the next major transition of the phenomena.

LIGHT, BEINGS AND ANGELS

One evening in early 2005 we returned from a stroll through the woods, during which neither of us had photographed anything; we were about to go indoors, so I pressed the "Off button" to switch off my Pentax digital camera, except that I didn't – instead, by mistake, I'd pressed the "shoot button". Unexpectedly the flash went off! I glanced down at the screen and immediately called Katie back from going indoors. What we saw there was an image (below left) of a misty figure hovering over the veranda. We stared at it in disbelief for a moment – then Katie said, "Quick – take another one!"

I pressed the right button this time, but all we got was this last shot (below right) of the veranda as we both saw it: totally clear and empty of any kind of mist or apparition.

I took no more shots because at that point the battery instantly died – but this was our very first photograph of what we later came to call "Light Beings". It was at this very point that the phenomenon that began with orbs transitioned into completely new anthropomorphic forms.

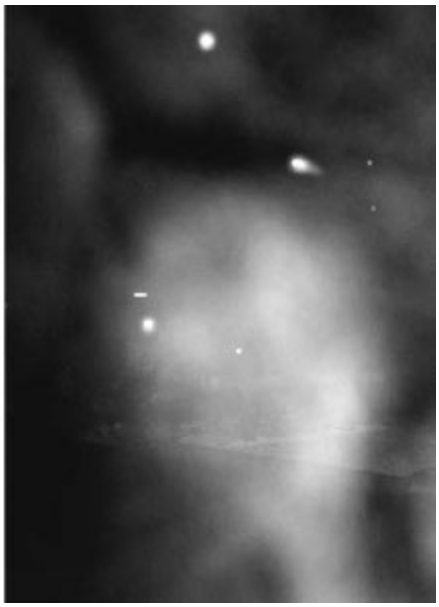
We have applied various names to the phenomenon we have photographed, but as mentioned previously, all out terms are descriptive – not definitive.

The term, “Light Beings” used here refers to them as anthropomorphic figures manifesting in the visible light spectrum, not to whether they are spirit entities, angels or whatever. We simply do not know, all we know is what we can see and photograph. What we may each believe them to be is a matter of personal belief or opinion.

Obviously what we are photographing is not the whole picture, anymore than the flashing of a mirror in the distance is the person doing the signalling. We have to consider the possibility that such images may be a reciprocal effect of consciousness or simply a means of communication: visual signs by something or someone to attract our attention for some unknown reason. We could speculate many possibilities. But in the context of the whole unfolding phenomenon we had experienced and photographed, it seemed to us that here again we were witnessing another visual indicator of the existence of a Beyond Reality interfacing with our own. Just as with the previous transitions, Light Beings became a recurring phenomenon in a variety of anthropomorphic forms. For instance, the impressive blue figure below, photographed one night moving through the woodland, we estimated to be about 12 to 14 feet tall.

In the photograph below the blue figure is about human size. It looks, for all the world like someone sitting under the tree – and perhaps it is. Some would see it as a ghostly apparition from the afterlife, but we do not view it that way. In the context of all the other Light Beings we have photographed we see it as part of the same unfolding phenomenon.

If we put it into the context of a Beyond Reality manifestation, which as far as we can tell is both reciprocal to, and interactive with, consciousness, it begins to make some strange kind of sense. Remember the shattered mirror metaphor! If all the diversity of life at every level, physically and metaphysically, are, like the trillions of shattered pieces of mirror, continually reflecting One Conscious Universal Beyond Reality, then because of its very existence, that Beyond Reality invests both our physicality and our consciousness. It would not be surprising then that if we both liked all things Tolkienesque, which we do, that the two blue woodland figures may look as though they belong in Middle Earth or in some myth or legend.



Let's just follow this idea further: we are both interested in UFOs and aliens, so we got the four images on this page. All four are strikingly reminiscent of aliens, especially the two below: on the left is a spaceman type figure and on the right a floating alien. These we believe are reciprocal visual phenomena resonating to our own individuated consciousness and generated by the interface between our reality and the wider Beyond Reality.

If our world, in fact our whole universe both physical and metaphysical, in all its vast diversity is but a mirror world continually reflecting One Ultimate Conscious and Universal Beyond Reality then it is quite probable that anomalies will recur and repeat which do not fit into our prevailing mirror world paradigms. This is because all our concepts are based not on one observable absolute Reality but on the mirrored images of that Beyond Realty filtered through both physics and metaphysics. In that sense we are like a person with a fixed point of view who can only look at the reflection of the moon in a puddle, as it passes overhead, but who cannot look up to see the actual moon in the sky. From his puddle observations he may well come up with some reasonable conclusions about what he sees in the water. The moon and stars passing across the puddle right beneath his nose would seem to be part and parcel of the puddle universe, but of course they are not. In terms of the wider reality happening in the great unknown above, the whole orientation of the puddle universe is wrong, and though it may seem to be complete within itself it is actually an incomplete view of Reality. If that is so, then anomalies will appear, and that is exactly what happens here. Genuine paranormal phenomena presents us with anomalies not explicable in terms of the ordinary.

Anomalies are not only found in paranormal phenomenon, they exist at most levels of our universe. But they are only anomalies in the first place because our mirror world or puddle world rationalizations are largely built on incomplete information mostly derived from representations or reflections of Reality rather than upon the One Self Existent Beyond Reality itself. For instance, here is a quite physical anomaly: because we find dinosaur bones in 500 million year old sedimentary strata, evolution theory requires that dinosaurs lived 500 million years ago. But over the past ten years or more palaeontologists have discovered soft tissue in fossilized dinosaur bones; even in dinosaur bones in museums! The problem with this is, at the very best outside estimates, soft tissue cannot exist for more than 30,000 years! This means even if the rocks are dated at 500 million years old, those same dinosaurs were walking around some 40,000 to 50,000 years ago. This flat lines the theory of evolution. As does the second law of thermodynamics for in a universe where empathy is the status quo, where everything degrades and decays from a perfect starting point, this is the exact reverse of the principle of evolution. Have we all missed something

here? I think we have. In our puddle universe we are missing the complete picture. The closer we get, as in quantum physics, to the interface between the reflection and the Beyond Reality the more we realise how incomplete our view of Reality really is.

Once we realize our limited perspective we have to accept that all our concepts of Reality are flawed and incomplete; of course I include my own views in this also. This, however, does not mean that we can know nothing about our existence, we know quite a lot, but as much as we learn our ignorance will always be greater, simply because the One prevailing Universal Reality will always be beyond us: always unknowable. We simply have to accept it on its own terms; we don't have any cosmic bargaining chips here. Certainly science can do a lot but it cannot create something out of nothing; all science can do is to describe and manipulate what is. We cannot create anything new. That would have to come from somewhere else, from a wider Reality beyond our puddle universe.

One of the ordinary everyday indications of a wider or Beyond Reality impinging on our own is the existence of synchronicity. The famous psychologist C.G. Jung first coined the term, Synchronicity to designate, "the meaningful coincidence, or equivalence, of psychic or physical states or events which are not directly related; or when an inwardly perceived insight, such as a dream, vision or premonition has direct meaning for external reality".

Synchronicity can also be used to describe similar or identical thoughts or dreams occurring at the same time in different places. Jung called this an "Acausal Connecting Principle" and cited it as possible evidence for his hypothesis of the collective unconscious. Though even Jung seemed to struggle at times to reconcile the inexplicable existence of synchronicity with the then orthodox assumption of a purely relative mechanistic universe, saying that, "meaningful coincidences are unthinkable as pure chance…" and pointed out that, "their 'chance' concurrence would represent a degree of improbability" so great that it would have to be "expressed by an astronomical figure".

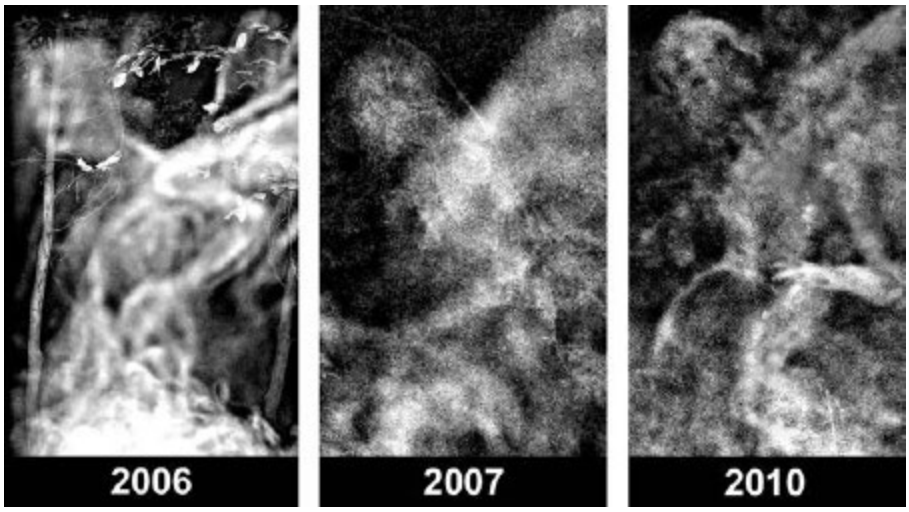
Certainly, in our experience, one of the major hallmarks of the phenomenon we were experiencing and photographing were the consistent instances of

synchronicity that we believe, in the context of a Beyond Reality, indicates an underlying connectivity of consciousness and meaning linked to the paranormal phenomenon we were encountering. Something was definitely picking up and replaying to us things that had meaning for us in particular. For instance, my interest in the Old Testament and ancient accounts of angels. You can clearly see this reflected in the following photographs, especially in this stunning photograph below of an imposing figure, which was the first of its kind taken in 2006. This and the following images reminded me very much of what the Hebrews called “Mal’achei elyon” or Angels from the Celestial Realm.

The concept of angels comes from the ancient civilisations of Mesopotamia. The Old Testament word for angel is malak – the New Testament uses the Greek, aggelos, translated into Latin as angelos. In both Old and New Testaments the meaning is messenger: describing only the function of the being, not its type or species, race or gender. An angel is simply a messenger of God.

Once that first image had occurred, other very similar apparitions followed, but spaced out across a few years. Compare the two photographs below: the one on the left was taken in 2007 and the one on the right taken in 2010. Here again both these misty figures have an imposing presence that recalls the idea of an Old Testament angel: other worldly, imposing and awe inspiring.

To me all these three images seem half-formed, like sketches or impressions of those Old Testament angels: anthropomorphic vaguely winged figures conveying the essence of something ancient and otherworldly. Indeed, the 2007 photograph (above left) of Katie looking up at the misty figure, is very reminiscent of some kind of angelic visitation. But as with the paranormal in general we must not get carried away with what it appears to be. What we are dealing with here are more probably visual metaphors, than actual angelic beings.



Comparing the three angel-like apparitions (above) from three different years, using the same Photoshop Un-sharp mask settings, we can see that all three figures have definite constructional similarities, which go beyond mere chance coincidence. Something deliberate is happening here; something beyond normal reality. They are all distinctly individual yet distinctly the same kind of entity. In the case of the 2006 and 2007 images, prior to photographing them, what Katie saw was the tiny twinkling lights (STLs), but she saw nothing prior to the 2010 image, which was one of a random few shots taken by me of nothing in particular just in case I could get any orbs, which I didn't.

Further Thoughts on Light Beings and Angels

The "accidental" shot I took of our first Light Being, could, at first glance look ghostly, and some of the larger anthropomorphic apparitions and angel-like figures we have since photographed may seem strange or even a bit scary to some; but again, this was never so for us. Nothing we have seen or photographed over all this time has ever given us cause for fear or alarm. Although some of these entities may look different to what one may expect, or be awesomely impressive, they have always felt friendly. Even in the dark of the woods that night when we photographed the 12 foot tall ethereal blue figure coming through the trees! We may have felt a bit apprehensive as to its appearance but it certainly wasn't terrifying in any evil sense.

Powerful, awesome, astounding, certainly; but only in the way one may feel looking up in a forest of Giant Redwoods or being a few feet away from a gorilla or tiger in the zoo.

Some may also consider the Light Beings we have photographed a bit too fearsome looking to even be called angels. But that is the very reason we have termed them angel-like! If we look at the Biblical accounts of angels, these celestial intermediaries are not the fuzzy-feel-good kind of angels that have been sanitized and repackaged by "New Age" sentimentality. No – they are impressive, other worldly beings, who are so awe-inspiring to the humans they visit, that their first words are usually, "Fear not!"

And with good reason – for if you have ever been in the presence of a non-human entity that is of a different order of being to us, then you will know exactly what I mean.

On this world we are all a bit like fish in an aquarium and, as St Paul said, "We see through a glass darkly". Beyond the glass, beyond the capabilities of our space and time bound perceptions, there is a Wider Reality. Some of the beings, which have their abode there, may be as different to us as we are to microbes.

The paranormal phenomena we and others have seen or photographed, may be a communication: a visual indicator of a Wider Reality beyond normal perception that is interfacing with us at the level of individual consciousness. We see the same phenomenon manifesting in a variety of visual forms: the Virgin Mary, spirits, aliens, angels etc. Why is contact specifically individual? Perhaps because individuated consciousness acts like a transceiver connecting to a Greater Consciousness permeating every level of Existence. If individuated beings exist in that Wider Reality then the most malleable interface between our material reality and theirs may indeed be Consciousness itself!

Our material existence here may be important to us, but to higher beings we may seem like short-lived larvae: incomplete creatures, a transitory stage in the development of being, but not the complete being itself. If our ultimate destiny is that Wider Reality, paranormal phenomena may be part of the process of our development as non-material beings.

However, as we discovered, we were not the only people photographing anthropomorphic or angel-like images. The amazing photograph that follows was taken on the track leading to her farm by our friend Sara, who lives about three miles away. Since first reading Beyond Photography, she too began to take photographs of orbs, many of them in that very same place; and as you can see there are also orbs moving across the path in front of the apparition, which appears to be a figure emerging from the undergrowth on the left. Again, like our angel-like figures, this apparition has an ancient feel to it as though it is of another time. Romantically Sara called this figure "Valentino" because it appeared on Valentine's Day.

Here below is Sara's photograph of "Valentino.".

Added to this below is a photocopy of an article which appeared in the Daily Mail in 2007, it features a photograph of an angel-like apparition taken in the Vatican by Andy Key, a retired police officer. This photograph, much like our own, has mystified professional photographers. It was taken in 2007 the year that we took our second angel-like apparition; as mentioned, our first one out of the three shown here was taken back in 2005.

Angel of the Vatican

Eerie: Winged figure in close-up

By Olivia Foster

THE sunlight streaming through a window in St Peter's Basilica took Andy Key's breath away.

So the retired policeman, on holiday in Rome, took a picture, hoping to capture the memory forever.

But when Mr Key, 68, and his wife Susan looked at the photo back home in March, Cambridgeshire, they noticed a different unearthly beauty.

The former constable said: "I thought it was really spooky. I don't know if I believe in it all, but several people have looked at it, including a professional photographer, and they can't work out what it might be - maybe it is a guardian angel."

Unexplained: The angel' (circled) in St Peter's Basilica

For copyright reasons we cannot use the actual highresolution photograph Andy Key took but you can view it online at www.dailymail.co.uk/news or www.nsacphenomena.com

THE CIRCLE OF SPIRIT HEALING

Strange visual phenomena have been photographed by many people. When we did a presentation at Glasgow University we met people who were researching or experiencing, such phenomena, including psychic, Jim Sherlock. The photographs below and on the next page were sent to us by Jim and show what he describes as images of spirit manifestations taken by visiting Belgian medium Isobelle Duchene during a meeting of Jim Sherlock's Psychic Circle. According to Jim, over 200 hundred orbs were photographed that evening as well as other phenomena.

As we were not present, the account of what happened that evening and how it relates to the photographs shown here has been supplied to us by Jim Sherlock, who confirmed that all the photographs are genuine images of psychic phenomena. The two shots below shows a member (Pat) sitting in the chair while "spirit" gives him healing. Jim explained that the dark shadow area you can see on Pat's chest was felt as actual pain by the other mediums in the room that night. Notice the presence of orbs and how electrical appliances in the room seem to be affected.

Here below are two more images of “spirit manifestations” around the sitter, photographed that same night. Again notice how lines or strings of light seem to be coming from, or are attracted to, electrical appliances. This time the sitter in these two photographs is a different person but the visual phenomena gathering around her is very similar to the previous manifestations.

Again these two photographs show what seems to be a figure standing behind the sitter. Jim explained this was the visual manifestation of the spirit healer. Note that orbs are again to the left of the sitter. Something unusual is happening here, of course what it may be is open to question, but if we examine the photographs closely there are many internal consistencies, suggesting the probability that the same phenomenon is happening across all the photographs Jim sent to us.

As with our own or anyone else's photographs of a paranormal phenomenon, once it is captured in the visual spectrum, it is at that very moment part of our normal reality and as such subject to the same laws of physics by which any other visual phenomenon can be tested and verified.

THE GREEN MAN

Early one evening in 2007 Katie went out to take some shots in the Faerie Dell. Amongst her images was the above photograph. At first glance we saw nothing special, then as we looked a bit closer I suddenly said, “Is that a tree? I don’t remember a tree there?”

We lightened the image – and then we saw it! And, as you can new clearly see from the lightened image below, there is what appears to be a green figure standing to the left of the tree. As this strange anthropomorphic figure is predominantly green, we simply called it, “The Green Man”!

The next evening Katie decided to try and get some idea of the height of our Green Man and so I took the photograph (above right) of Katie standing in roughly the same place. When we compare it with the lightened image (above left) we could see that, as Katie is 5 feet 2 inches, the Green Man must have been over 12 feet tall!

Again we had to ask, “Why an image of a tall green figure?” Was this a tree diva or woodland spirit? According to folklore and legend, entities like The Green Man have long been believed to haunt England’s woodland. Certainly our own woodland feels like an enchanted place, full of old and ancient trees; just the place where you would expect to meet Elves or even Tom Bombadil.

Even so we have never photographed a Green Man before or since. Neither did it seem to mean anything, except in terms of our own interests. Both Katie and I love Tolkien’s stories of Middle Earth – and, of course, this tall green figure instantly reminded us of an Ent. Could this be another instance of the reciprocal nature of that Beyond Reality through which a wider Consciousness, which may at times interface with our own, which we may then experience or record in some way as a paranormal phenomenon.

If this is indeed so, it is not unique to us; it will affect everyone, everywhere to a greater or lesser degree: déjà vu, synchronicity, inexplicable anomalies and psychic phenomena. This is, of course precisely what we see in a whole range of diverse extraordinary phenomena recorded as affecting human beings throughout history.

In terms of our own small local events that may have had any connection to this appearance, the only event we could relate it to was the previous day when we had taken out a few saplings in that area as the trees needed more light. If everything is connected physically and metaphysically then perhaps because Katie was concerned to say out loud to the surrounding trees, that we were sorry to do this, but it had to be done, that this evoked some resonance somewhere? Perhaps the Green Man image was a response to Katie's intent in affirming that connection.

SYNCHRONICITY AND A WOLF

When our friend, psychic and numerologist Ellis Taylor, came to stay for a few days, as you do when friends visit, we ended up going to places we'd not been to for ages. We suggested a visit to one of our favourite stone circles: Long Meg. It was there, at the Long Meg stone circle, that a series of synchronicities and interconnected paranormal events began to occur. Those with us on our trip to Long Meg were Ellis, Mike and Fran. Long Meg is one of the largest stone circles in the country and is virtually in the middle of nowhere. It took a while to get there but eventually we were all walking around looking at the stones. Ellis was chatting about the people we'd met at conference we had all attended the previous weekend, saying what a pity it was that they couldn't have been here too.

On the wind I heard a distant voice calling my name, and turning was surprised to see walking towards us the whole group of folks we had just been talking about from the previous weekend's conference. None of us had any idea the others would be there at Long Meg and we all had a good laugh about it. As we waved them goodbye we did not realise that this unexpected meeting was not the only instance of synchronicity we were to experience there.

Below is a photograph of part of the circle with Long Meg in the distance between two stones.

As I walked around the stones with Ellis he was asking questions about the stone circle, of which I did know a little, but I explained that the man who knew most about this circle, indeed all the stones circles in Cumbria, was

Tom Clare, once the county archaeologist, who had written the definitive book on stone circles, but whom I had not seen for a few years. I had just finished telling Ellis this when I turned to notice a figure walking vaguely towards us through the middle of the circle. I recognised him immediately: it was Tom, the person I had just been speaking about!

This was the second incidence of synchronicity. Tom who was there researching his new book on stone circles, was then able to answer all Ellis's questions. It was really good to meet Tom again and hear how he was doing. As we waved goodbye to Tom, I had the intuitive feeling that perhaps something other was happening more than just a visit to Long Meg. Like most stone circles it was a place with its own distinct atmosphere: an ancient place, a betwixt and between place, where one could almost expect the unexpected to occur.

Indeed as I took some photographs to record our visit with Ellis, I took one of Fran standing next to a stone and there right next to her in front of the stone was an orb. Here is the photograph below and as you can see from the enlargement on the right the orb is clearly visible even in sunlight and taken without flash; so this is definitely no reflection or flash feed-back.

In the context of what happened later, I do not believe that either the synchronicities or the appearance of this orb were unrelated. Although I have no idea what any of this may mean, that may be for those who come after us to discover. The next day we decided to take Ellis to the coast, to an

ancient historical site overlooking the sea. If you recognise this place please respect it, you will probably know why I deliberately do not mention its specific location here.

This is an ancient sacred site that predates the coming of Christianity and upon which the first Celtic Christians from Ireland built a church and monastery. Kath, a local lady, now departed, spent 40 years studying and a mapping this site and making tracings of the various petroglyphs of eagles, animals and symbols hidden in the landscape. On a rocky outcrop high above the sea are what appear to be five narrow graves cut into the rock. Ellis was instantly drawn to this and as he had brought his dowsing rods, suggested doing some dowsing. Ellis was an experienced dowser, I've done some but Katie had not done any before. By simple yes or no questions, Ellis hoped to learn something more about the site than the little that was printed on the historical notice in the ruins of the little church. We took turns using the dowsing rods, each standing on the slab of rock where the ancient graves were cut. We got some unexpected answers to our questions, which I will not reveal here so as not to prejudice anyone else's results. After about thirty minutes we came to a point in the dowsed responses that now required a verbal response from us. Katie was using the rods at the time, but when she spoke the words we had agreed on, she was suddenly flung off the rock slab to land on her back on the grass! I rushed to her side immediately and called her back but she had no ill effects and was not hurt in any way. Ellis thought it happened because the energy there was so incredibly strong. This was her first time at dowsing and Katie's own sense of psychic connection was acute. Fortunately this did not put her off dowsing, but we all thought that was enough for one day.

That night after dinner, Ellis went for a wander in the garden but soon came rushing back to get his camera as he thought he'd seen something in the dell. We joined him, armed with our own cameras and strolled into the woodland, followed as usual by the cats.

Not long after, Ellis wasn't far away when he saw a blue luminosity through the trees and took the photograph above. I managed to take the photograph below, as it was moving away. So, here we have two photographs of the same moving luminosity, taken by two people, using two different cameras. This does not often happen but put in the context of our other events that day, and the day before, perhaps it wasn't so surprising that it did.

We continued looking but saw nothing more. Shortly afterward Ellis said that he thought he sensed something like a wolf spirit in the woods (he says things like that). The cats certainly didn't seem disturbed; they were probably more concerned with mice spirits, or preferably just mice.

However, only a few minutes later, taking a random shot of Katie, I took the next photograph which now certainly qualified Ellis's psychic senses, because this shows what looks like a misty wolf or fox-like image right next to her. In terms of synchronicity this photograph was absolutely spot-on.

The wolf image, shown above, was particularly interesting for us, not only because Ellis had sensed it before it was photographed, but more specifically because it was only a few yards away from where Katie was standing. It was there, three years before (as mentioned previously) we had photographed the orbs configuration that matched the constellation of Canis Major, in which is the star Sirius, the dog star. Significantly and astrologically Sirius is the ruling star for both dogs and wolves. Added to this we have another synchronistic link to the dog or wolf. The cartoon strip Mike Oram and I do together, Ben's World, is all about a little dog called Ben, and Sirius is even featured in one of the early comic strips. When we think of the wolf as a symbol, we have to realise that this is not literally one specific animal; it is representative of a genre that includes dogs, foxes, wolves and pretty much all canines. In terms of a Wider Reality, there seems to be a connection of consciousness running through all these events and images but what it may mean, apart from affirming to us that such connectivity happens, is still open to question. However, as outlined at the end of the first part of this book, all the connections with Sirius would seem to be more than mere chance coincidence and may be part of a wider picture not yet fully seen. In terms of the mirror Universe concept St Paul's comment in 1 Corinthians 13:12, would seem quite appropriate here: "For

now we see in a mirror but dimly, but then we shall see face to face. Now I know only in part, but then I shall know in full, even as I am also known.”

LIGHT STREAMING

Today we speak of streaming video; that is a video file that is sent in a constant flow directly from a website to your computer, laptop, tablet or mobilephone. When you click on YouTube to play a video you are streaming the video file from that website to the media player on your computer or tablet.

It is called “streaming” because it happens in real time; the file is delivered to your computer like water flowing from a tap. A streaming file is not saved on your device you simply watch and listen to streaming video or music as it comes direct to your media player. It is the speed of your internet connection that mainly ensures getting a smooth viewing experience.

Sometimes it seemed that the experience and phenomenon we were witnessing was a bit like streaming video: although we could capture bits of it, we couldn’t save the whole file. So much was happening at different levels in a constant state of “streaming” phenomena, which seemed to suggest that the connection, or interface, with the service provider, the Beyond Reality, was active in real time and working at high speed. A good but rather prosaic example of this is the electrical effects that translated literally into streaming light signals. In the photograph below you can see one of the touch lamps in a corner of our bedroom. I took this when it was having a session of coming on for no apparent reason; notice the orbs to the left, a sure sign of interaction.

My daughter, Annabel, gave us these lamps a few years ago. At first they worked fine: you tapped them, they went on or off, no problem. You had to definitely touch them to make them work; a light touch would not do it. Then in 2006 not long after Beyond Photography was first published something odd happened. It was the time when Katie was reading that wonderful book, The Secret Life of Plants by Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird. That night she had been reading the section containing a quote from Gustav Theodor Fechner, a 19th-century professor of physics who was one of the first scientists to explore the possibility that plants had awareness. We had actually referred to this in Beyond Photography. Fechner's ideas had later been verified by the research work of Cleve Baxter and others. Fechner had also put forward the notion that human consciousness was made up of three stages: One, a continuous sleep state from conception to birth; two, the half-awake state we think of as our terrestrial existence; three, the fully awake state which only begins after death. This is referred to in Fechner's own book Comparative Anatomy of Angels, in which he traces the evolution of consciousness, from simple organisms, through animals and humans to higher angelic beings, who he believed to be spherical in form and who communicate through light itself by the use of luminous symbols. It was this section Katie had been re-reading again just before she put the light out to go to sleep. About three hours later she suddenly woke up and was just lying there wondering why she was awake when suddenly both lights came on! Katie was amazed and excitedly woke me up to tell me what had happened.

I don't think I was quite as impressed as she was at the time. I just wanted to get back to sleep.

But Katie quickly related this to what she'd been reading about Fechner's idea of higher beings communicating through light. Considering everything else that had happened, this did not seem too improbable. From that moment on the touch lamps, either both or one or the other, would spontaneously come on, but not randomly; it only happened at times that were uncannily synchronistic, such as when Katie or myself were reading something spiritually meaningful, or something paranormal had occurred, or on or before some special occasion. This all seemed too coincidental; so first we investigated this thoroughly for any likely normal explanations.

We discovered that our touch-sensitive lamps used a property of the human body to trigger the "light on mode". Our lamps worked because of "capacitance" – that is the capacity an object has to hold electrons. When it is standing by itself on a table, the lamp has a predetermined capacitance. Touching the lamp with your hand simply adds to its capacity. Because it takes more electrons to fill a human body than it does to fill a lamp the electrical circuit in the lamp is designed to detect that difference; when it does so the light goes on. Like most touch-sensitive lamps ours have three brightness settings; the circuit changes the brightness of the lamp by changing the "duty cycle" of the power reaching the bulb. For instance, in the lamp circuit a 0 percent cycle equals "Off" and a 33 percent cycle equals 66 percent brightness and a 100 percent duty cycle equals full brightness. Touching the lamp with any object such as, a book, a duster or a glove will not activate it. Not even a fly or moth landing on it will set it off. Switching the radio, or other electrical appliances, on or off did not affect it. We tried everything likely but nothing other than direct contact with the human body worked. So we just accepted that this was happening, but always at meaningful times, for reasons we could not fathom. There was no pattern except synchronicity. Some weeks it would happen two or three times, then nothing for months, until it coincided with something particularly meaningful for us. Mostly now it only happens with one lamp not two as in the beginning. This has happened for a few years now. Repeatedly over that period when it hasn't happened for a couple of months, Katie gets to thinking it may never happen again. Then if we are in

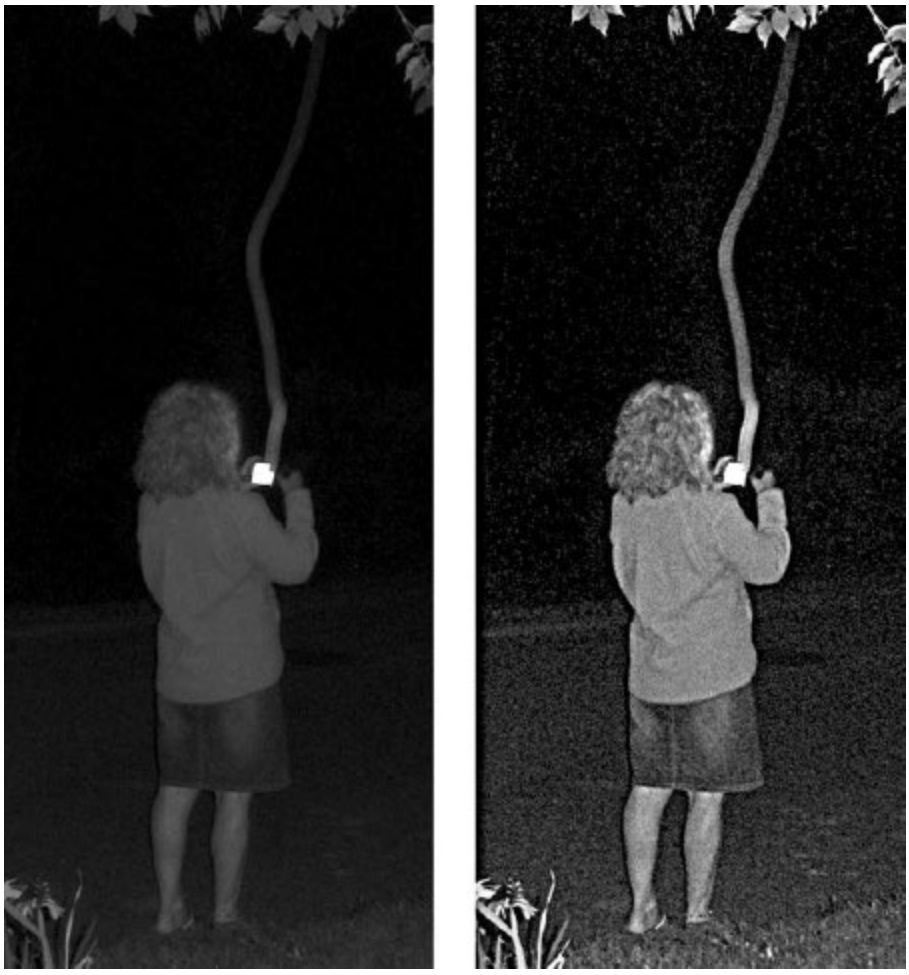
the bedroom, afternoon or evening, it doesn't matter, she will say to me something like, "Do you think, that's it, it'll not happen again?" Typically then either instantly or later that evening, the light comes on. The best one so far was one afternoon in 2010, on my birthday, we were in the bedroom getting ready to go out. The lamp hadn't come on for months, when suddenly on it came!

Katie was really pleased and excited, "Look at that – I think it's come on because it's your birthday!" But then added, "Odd it only ever comes on the first setting, and it never switches itself off, maybe it can't…"

The words were only just out of her mouth when the lamp suddenly went through all three brightness settings three times; then for the next fifteen minutes it went – on – off – on – off – on – off – we could hardly believe it. This unprecedented light show was so amusing and went on so pointedly for so long that we both ended up laughing; then suddenly it went off and never came on again for another couple of months!

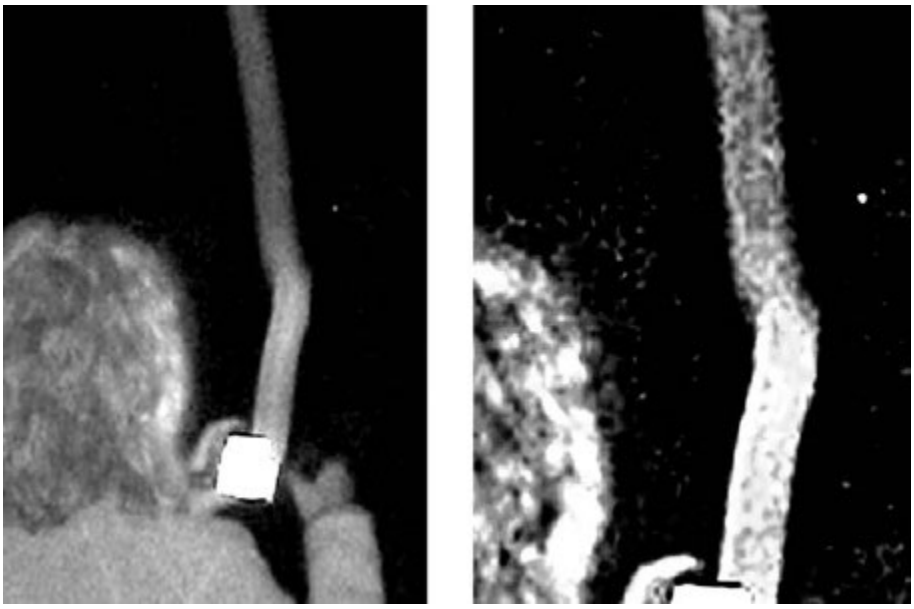
Since 2006, Katie has been logging experiences and strange incidents, including our spontaneous lamp lights, as they happened in a little book, so my birthday light show was duly noted down. The lamp continues to light up if Katie needs a light at night, if something important to us happens, or when she is reading or even if we are discussing something new related to our spiritual journey.

Certainly Light has been critical to our entire phenomenon, to our experiences, and to our spiritual perspective. Light streaming from our Beyond Reality Service Provider, was not just amusing us by connecting to the lamps, as you will see in the next set of photographs.

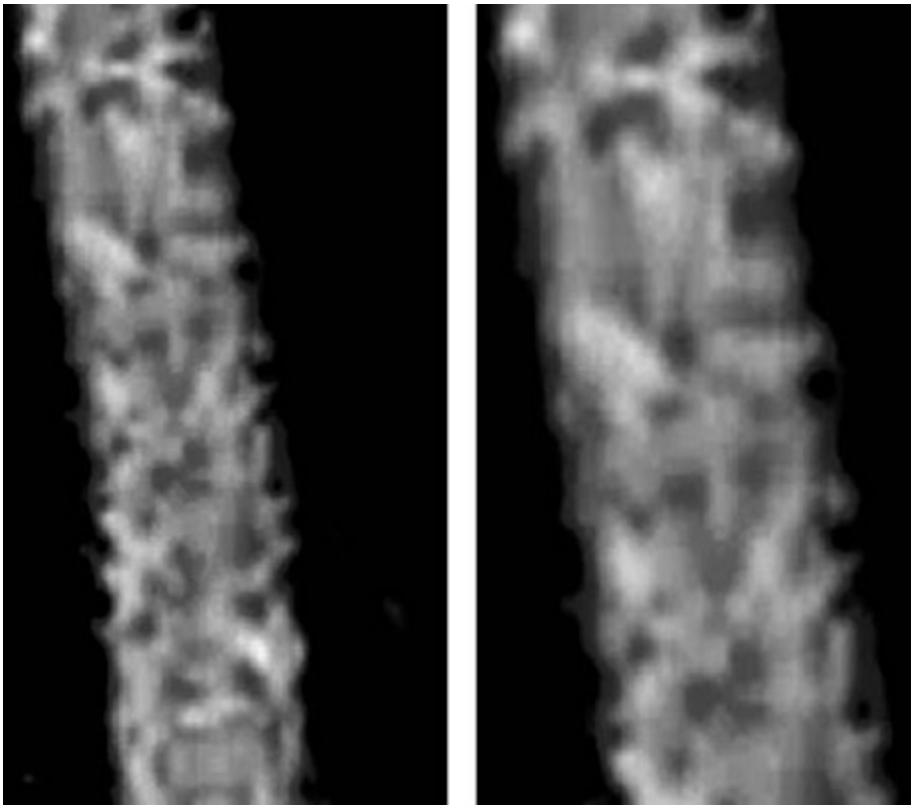


One evening, after taking a few shots, Katie was checking through them on her camera's display screen, when I took this photograph from the veranda. It shows something we had never got before, or since: a stream of light either going into or coming out of the camera. The photo on the left is the original image; the one on the right has been enhanced slightly using the Adobe Photoshop Un-sharp Mask tool.

In the above photograph you can see what appears to be a light stream flowing, or streaming into Katie's camera. You can more clearly see this on the right hand version. If we think of this photograph in metaphorical terms with Katie's camera being symbolical of the very means we have used to record the entire phenomena, then the stream of light flowing into or out of the camera could well represent the "streaming connection" between the device and the Service Provider: the Beyond Reality that generates the whole phenomena!



Above and opposite are two enlargements of this unique image that I have enhanced by using the Adobe Photoshop Un-sharp Mask tool. Both these enhancements, clearly reveal smaller elements within the light stream. But what are they, random pixilation or actual images?



Some have claimed to see faces in enlargements of orbs but we have always thought this slightly dubious because the mind is geared to see recognizable patterns in even random elements, such as pictures in clouds, faces in rocks, tree trunks, or even in patches of damp etc. But whether or not this light stream does contain real tiny images is not as important as the metaphysical implication of another reality actually connecting with the camera. In the context of our entire visual phenomena, from our point of view this is a visual communication affirming that connection.

AN ANGEL VISITATION?

As you have seen previously the above three images, in our estimation, represent three angel-like figures, though taken in different years, have a construction so similar that they must belong to the same genre or group of entities. Or as metaphysical communications from the Beyond Reality perhaps they are consistent representations of angelic archetypes pulled from the collective consciousness?

As touched on earlier in this book, the concept of angels is derived from the ancient civilisations of Mesopotamia and later from New Testament Christianity. The Bible speaks of guardian angels and of angels as messengers of hope, which still very much seems their function today by those who believe in them. Angels are generally viewed as transcending any one particular religion; they are seen as beings of light or pure spirit. There are numerous books written about angels but it is not our purpose here to discuss the nature or meaning of angels except as it may relate to our own particular experiences with the phenomenon of photographable paranormal manifestations.

As mentioned previously whether known in Hebrew as malak or in Latin as angelos, an angel is simply a celestial, messenger. In that sense, as we originally wrote back in 2006, in Beyond Photography, “our luminosities and light-forms could be said to be angels; for they had been continually giving us messages on various levels…”

At least one popular New Age writer subsequently took this idea literally and later produced one or two books asserting, with unprecedented certainty, that orbs were in fact angels. One cannot help but wonder that if orbs had not become so popular whether anyone would have ever thought of this? So let us be clear on this point, we personally do not consider orbs to be angels, neither do we consider the figurative images that look angel-like, that we have photographed, to be actual angels. In the context of the whole range of the phenomena we have experienced, encountered and photographed, we believe it is probable that these are reciprocal visual manifestations generated through the interface of connective consciousness between our reality and a Wider Reality.

In our world of individuated consciousness a whole range of diverse paranormal and metaphysical phenomena has been recorded throughout human history. At times such phenomena has spiritually transformed individual lives; sometimes it has even changed the human world, religiously, politically and socially. Considering all this and in the specific context of our own experiences we would like you to also consider all the following photographs from the perspective of a wider Reality beyond all that is contained at our own level of existence.

As shown previously, our veranda was the site of the very first appearance of a Light Being – but that was not the only occasion that an anthropomorphic image appeared there, as you can see from the photograph above.

The background to this photograph of a decidedly angel-like figure is this: it was 2007 and we were soon due to go on our first trip to the USA to speak about our book, Beyond Photography. There was a lot going on at the time, both physically and metaphysically, and Katie's best friend, Wendy, was a little concerned that we had too many things to cope with. Wendy and Katie have known each other for years and also used to work together. Wendy is a kind, caring and spiritual person. Just like Katie, Wendy also, from time to time, also sees the tiny lights we now call Small Transient Lights, and she is also a believer in higher angelic forces. Katie and Wendy share a close connection, not only as best friends but as kindred spirits on the spiritual path. Wendy lives many miles away and so we do not get to see

her that often, but one evening totally unknown to us at the time, Wendy had decided to do an angel meditation for us and had asked Archangel Michael to be with us and to protect us. Unknown to Wendy that very same evening I was up working late on a publishing deadline. It was about 2am and I was just about to give up and go to bed when there was a tap, tapping on the study window.

I looked up and was surprised, at that unearthly hour, to see a blackbird tapping at the windowpane. I immediately had a strong sense that something "Other" was about. Because of all our other experiences I picked up my camera and, without waking Katie, went outside to see if there really was anything around. The moonless night was quiet and still but I was too tired to go far so I took a few shots from the steps in front of our door. I got a couple of orbs, and thought that was it, but then a kind shimmer in the air at the far end of the veranda caught my eye; I instinctively quickly took a shot in that direction. There was a small burst of tiny lights and the winged image you see above, appeared in my viewfinder. Then it was gone!

In the two photographs above you can compare the roughly eight feet tall angel-like apparition with the apparition of the first Light Being; in both instances both figures appeared in almost the same place on the veranda. To me this seems to go beyond chance coincidence. Let us just think about the winged figure and its connection to Wendy's angel meditation that very same night. She had specifically asked for Archangel Michael to visit us and that very same night, miles away, an angel-like image is photographed

on the veranda of the very friends she was meditating on; again this goes beyond chance coincidence.

But if a larger Reality beyond all that we know exists, and our world is part of it, then it may be reasonable to assume that it is imbedded in every atom of our existence; in every flicker of our consciousness. Should we then really be surprised that such synchronistic events happen – I don't think we should! All that we are now learning of the vast and mysterious immensity of Existence, both physically and metaphysically, is leading us towards new radical views of consciousness; the interconnection of mind and matter in relation, not only to the diversity of life in the universe around us, but to a Wider Reality beyond.

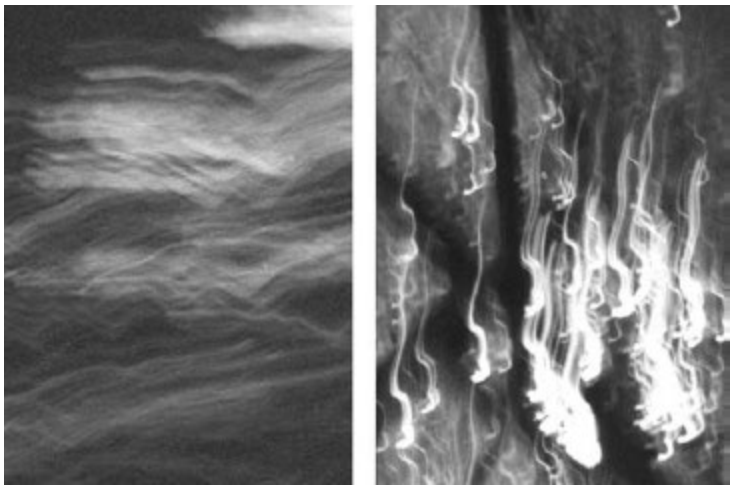
For us the angel-like figure was not, as some may well have taken it to be, an actual angel. No, for us, this was an image, a visual message; more like semaphore. We were seeing the flags waving but we were not seeing the flag waver. For that is always beyond us. For instance, ants may see the signs of the passage of humans or the intrusions of the human hand into their world, but even though they share this world with us, any appreciation of our nature or even our existence is always beyond them. How much greater will the gap be between our time-limited consciousness in the created universe and the vast eternal consciousness of that self-existent Reality that is beyond everything we can know or imagine.

In the next chapter we shall look at a completely different but nevertheless amazing manifestation of this Wider Reality that occurred in full daylight one afternoon.

AN ALTERNATIVE AFTERNOON

One afternoon Katie and I were strolling around looking at the garden and taking some shots of the trees when quite suddenly something odd began to happen to the images on both our cameras at the same time! Everything had been normal up to that point then suddenly for no reason every time we took a shot it was as though some kind of frequency change had taken place, as though we were photographing an alternative view of normal reality. The images became distorted, as in the photographs below. Bits of the landscape went missing; there were ethereal images of what looked like other people; strange flowing elements began to appear.

Although it wasn't at all stormy, the air felt heavy just like it does sometimes when you get low-pressure conditions. In the photograph above left, the trees have disappeared and in the next (above right) you can see there is the ghostly impression of another, taller figure standing right next to Katie. Below left is an enlargement of what should be the sky and below right, an enlargement of strange white vertical anomalies that appeared over leaves and greenery on most of the shots.



No flash was used on any of the shots, by either of us; sometimes images are both in and out of focus on the same shot, which should not happen with digital cameras set on auto, as ours were that afternoon. All the photographs taken by both our cameras were affected by the same anomalies that day, which convinced us that it was something outside of the cameras casing these very strange effects. But all that was just the forerunner to what appeared next. As Katie walked through the Faerie Dell she took this incredible photograph (below) of what appears to be a tall lady dressed in mauve apparently floating about three feet above the ground.

There is nothing pink or blue, no flowers or bushes there. She (if she it was) was very tall; our estimates put her at over seven feet in height floating above the tall grasses. As you can see the same white vertical anomalies are on this image too; they shouldn't be there anymore than what we came to call, the "Mauve Lady", should be there. Nothing natural to the garden

could account for anything we photographed that afternoon; neither was it rainy or stormy, it was a dry though dullish afternoon.

Above are two enlargements of our “Mauve Lady”. On the right is the enhanced image using the Photoshop Un-sharp Mask tool; some have thought this strange ethereal floating figure could be a ghostly image of a past member of the original household from nearly 200 years ago! Notice also how the image frequency changed to duplicate the tree and foreground. Whilst not wishing to pour water on any ideas of ghosts, in this instance we feel that this image may reflect something else. However, we understand there once was a large lily pond at the bottom of the garden and this certainly is the direction the apparition seems to be heading in.

Of course the old idea of ghosts, spirits or persistent resonances from the past manifesting visually in present time, could in today’s view of the quantum universe equally be from the future, or from some other alternate reality. We have to keep an open mind here, but if we analyse this image as we have done many times, upon close examination this is not a human figure, although at a quick glance it gives that impression. That is more accurately what it is: an impression, almost a visual metaphor in colour of a walking figure. It is totally out of keeping with the environment, the only thing that ties it together with the other photographs taken that afternoon are the other strange visual anomalies that were consistent on all the images

taken by two distinctly different makes of camera; mine was a Pentax and Katie used an Olympus. That both cameras would suffer from exactly the same digital anomaly at the same time seems highly unlikely. The only other explanation, in the context of the fact that both cameras recorded the same phenomenon, is that we were both photographing something external and real. That this caused visual reality to be reproduced as distorted and shifting indicates that some form of energy, whether physical or metaphysical, was affecting both cameras. In our estimation this was another occurrence of the “orbs and beyond” phenomenon.

CONCERNING PROPHETIC APPARITIONS

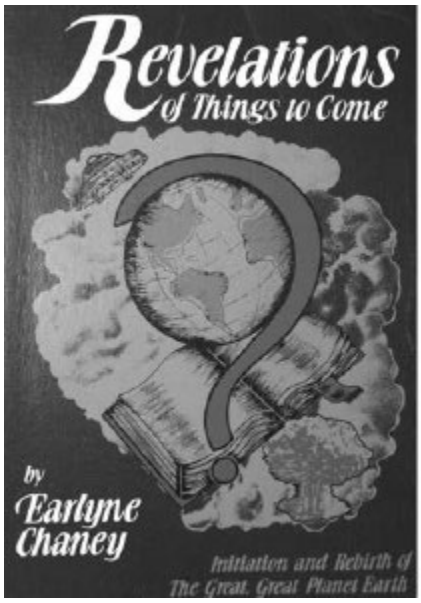
For the past few years I had been writing a book on prophecy and prediction, a subject I had a long time interest in. Essentially this is a rational overview intended to inform and help people to better distinguish the facts from the fiction. The history of prophecy, both Christian and otherwise, is littered with the rusting debris of self-delusions and deliberate deceptions of false prophecies. The last few years of prophetic hype spinning out in all directions from the marketing driven bandwagon incorrectly promoting 2012 as the so called "End of the Mayan Calendar", the end of the world as we know it, is the most recent example of the power of false prophecy as an all too effective spiritual deception. Added to this, prediction has now become a huge money making business, with a celebrity style psychic glitterati at the top of the money tree. The huge incomes and consistent predictive failures of some highly paid media psychics have quite rightly resulted in well-justified criticisms from sceptics everywhere. Unfortunately, it has also resulted in genuine psychics being tarred with the same brush. This was one issue I was very concerned to deal with in my book about prophecy; for there are genuine instances of some people correctly predicting the future, albeit none of these people were making a business out of doing so.

In our first book Beyond Photography we mentioned the apparition of Fatima in 1917, commonly accepted by Roman Catholics to be a miraculous appearance of the Virgin Mary. The story of Fatima centres around three village children who one day, while out watching sheep, saw a bright flash of light. Drawn towards this unexpected phenomenon, in the centre of the luminosity they saw a radiant being, later described as a "small woman", subsequently believed by thousands of Catholics to be a miraculous visitation of the Virgin. There were five appearances at Fatima altogether, and on the last appearance, what is termed, "The Miracle of the Sun", was witnessed by over 70,000 people. Many photographs, such as the one below, were taken at the time by believers, non-believers, sceptics, and journalists who were there. Just type Fatima into Google and you will be able to check all this out for yourself.

We referred to Fatima in our book primarily because it is one of the best-documented appearances of luminosities, beings of light and other paranormal light phenomenon, similar to our own phenomenon. What we did not discuss were the prophetic implications of the appearances of this "Lady of Light". Even by the time I was doing the second draft of my book on prophecy, I had still not intended to include Fatima or any other such Roman Catholicised accounts of visions or miraculous appearances in the book. In the context of our own experiences of paranormal visual phenomena this omission may seem strange, but the fact is I saw the whole panoply of Roman Catholic Icons and miracles and all the surrounding religiosity as something to be avoided because it smacked too much of religious dogmatism; an unwillingness to think beyond the theological box. I still think this to be true in terms of specific religious interpretation of such apparitions, but one day something happened that made me seriously reconsider and re-evaluate some of these "prophetic apparitions" from another viewpoint.

On the morning of 21st of December 2010 at 8.30 in the morning, our bedroom touch-lamp came on again all by itself. As explained previously, this only occurs at some synchronistic time; it just happened to be a total eclipse of the Sun on the 21st, but as far as we were concerned that was not the only significant event to happen that day. That evening we were invited to have dinner with our good friends Mike and Fran. Now Mike, as well as having a lifetime interest in UFOs and other phenomena is also an

antiquarian book dealer; his hall and sitting room was full of various boxes of books and piles of books, either waiting to be sorted through or waiting to go to the next book auction. It was a common state of affairs, so we gave it no thought. Later, after dinner, as we were all talking over hot drinks, chocolates and mince pies (it was after all, almost Christmas!), out of nowhere I suddenly had a very strong image of a book in my mind; a green cover with orange or red elements on it; after this was a white page with the number 61 on it. On the page was a picture of a bright light, and the words "spindle" or "spinning" came to my mind. All this was a bit like a sudden flash of memory, or like the images I sometimes got on the odd occasions I'd practiced psychomety. Sensing something, Katie asked me what was wrong and I explained what I'd just seen in my mind's eye. I said, "I think there is a book here I'm meant to look at, Mike, do you have anything like that?" It didn't seem to fit any of his own books that he could remember, or any of the ones he'd put out for sale, but Fran said, "I think we should all look, for it may be amongst the books he's not looked at yet?" We looked through various piles of books for about thirty minutes. I was about to say let's not bother, as it was now getting late, when I lifted up a whole stack of books and there was a book with a green cover that looked very like the image I had seen. Without opening it I handed it to Katie. The book was, Revelations of Things to Come by Earlyne Chaney (see the photograph below). I'd never even heard of it. Katie, Fran and Mike looked at the book. I sat opposite and said, "Just turn to page 61 and see what's there." When they did, there it was, in the middle of a chapter on Fatima, a picture of the "Miracle of the Sun"; underneath it was the caption "The sun began to spin like a giant wheel, giving off rays of terrifying heat and vivid colours". This was something of an exaggerated depiction of the event; nevertheless, it was exactly what I'd seen previously in my mind's eye; this was too accurate to be random coincidence!



This does not in any way mean that I agree completely with Earlyne Chaney's personal viewpoints as expressed in her book; I definitely do not. This was simply the catalyst that led me to inquire more closely into certain religious visions and what they may possibly mean.

Indeed from then on I began to research the history of such apparitions, even though I had originally not intended to include any so called "miraculous events" in my book on prophecy. In narrowing down the cases that seemed to have a genuine prophetic content, I discovered that in the most well documented instances there were four common factors that connected them all:

1. A lady of light commonly thought to be the Virgin Mary.

2. The visionaries were all children.

3. A religious message with a prophetic content.

4. They all took place in predominantly Roman Catholic regions.

Naturally this last fact accounts for Roman Catholic interpretations placed on all these events. Today secular Ufologists see similarities in some accounts of alien contact, which have also often involved luminous globes and shining human-like figures. Strange lights, air-born phenomena,

floating figures and telepathic communication are common to both religious visions and ufology.

Possibly the first authenticated appearance of a “Lady of Light”, commonly believed by Roman Catholics to be Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was the apparition of “Our Lady of Guadalupe” that appeared in Guadalupe in Mexico in December 1531, since then various similar apparitions have occasionally occurred across the world at different times, mostly in predominantly Roman Cathoic countries. To date about ten appearances of “Our Lady” in small remote Catholic communities have been recognized by the Roman Catholic Church. In each case there are discernible common characteristics that lend uniformity to the appearances, the most common being the arrival of a globe of light; this light is surrounding the figure, and there is the delivery of a message with a prophetic content.

From 1846 to 1917 there were three well reported appearances of prophetic apparitions, believed by thousands of Roman Catholics, and indeed eventually by the church itself, to be visions of the Virgin Mary. Similar events then later occurred in the 1960s in Garabandal in Spain and there have been other such claims of similar apparitions such as the “Madonna of the Roses” in San Daminiano in 1961, and the well witnessed appearances of a Lady-like apparition over the Coptic Church in Zeitoun in 1968. The question is not did they happen, but rather how and why did they happen? What these appearances may actually be is very much open to question. I must state here that I have no affiliations to Roman Catholicism and am not a believer in the whole panoply of icons and religious miracles. However, four accounts in this genre seemed worthy of further investigation in relation to prophetic apparitions. In chronological order these are:

1. The apparition of La Salette, France, in September 1846.

2. The apparitions of Lourdes, France, between February and July 1858.

3. The apparitions of Fatima, Portugal, from May to October 1917.

4. The four visionaries of Garabandal, Spain, in the 1960s.

In each case the apparition of a “Lady of Light”, commonly thought to be the Virgin Mary by most Roman Catholics, made alarmingly accurate predictions, which included the coming of famines, wars, diseases and other events. The fact that the visions of La Salette, Lourdes, Garabandal and Fatima, all have common characteristics and documented prophetic statements seemed to indicate they may all have a common origin; so I included them in my book on prophecy. None of which would have happened if I had not had the experience that led to finding Earlyne Chaney’s book that evening back in December 2010.

By 2012 I had finished my research into the prophetic apparitions and had included them in my, as yet, uncompleted book.

According to many New Age prophetic gurus (who were all later proved completely wrong), the year 2012 was the end of the Mayan Calendar and the end of life as we know it! My own views on this were written and documented in 2009, 2010 and in 2011 published on Kindle at www.amazon.com/dp/B0084735VC, under the title, 2012: Prophetic Meltdown!

In spite of all the New Age hype, astronomical misconceptions, false prophecy and the whole bogus bandwagon of Doomsday predictions, 2012 turned out to be a good year for us. Even though 2012 had loomed large as the culmination of New Age prophetic baloney it was merely the year after another failed Doomsday deadline, the one predicted by Christian false prophet, Harold Camping, when Christ was again supposed to return and the world come to an end! In May 2011, six days before Camping’s silly deadline for Christ’s return on May 21st, we were out in the garden taking some shots, which we had not done for quite a while. It was a warmish dry night; we had got some orbs in the Dell; Katie had also got a few over by the rockery, so I tried a couple of shots. I didn’t photograph any orbs but what I did get was the amazing image below, which appears to be a classic apparition in the tradition of the religious visions discussed earlier. Considering the timing and all that had led up to it, this was a very synchronistic image!

Opposite is an enlargement of this evocative image; on the right is an enhanced version using the Photoshop Un-sharp Mask tool so that the configuration and detail of the image becomes more obvious. So what are we actually looking at here?

If we slot this into the same context as the angel-like images we looked at earlier, this is certainly more like the classic image of an angelic apparition than anything we photographed before, with the exception of the first Light Being. In terms of all our other phenomena and considering the unusual

circumstances surrounding the discovery of the book, Revelations of Things to Come by Earlyne Chaney, which led to me including accounts of such apparitions in my book on prophecy, and the synchronicity of this image appearing six days before a false prophetic deadline expired in May 2011, the very year before the biggest prophetic hoax in recent history expired, it seems probable to me that this image is again another instance of a manifestation indicating the reciprocal nature of a greater interactive consciousness that interfaces with our level of reality all the time. We constantly see this greater consciousness at work in every instance of synchronicity in our lives. But sometimes, due to factors we as yet do not fully understand, like streaming video, it makes a direct connection streaming into our reality which we then see or experience as paranormal phenomena. Because our individuated minds and indeed the whole matrix of our existence, is a reciprocal and active part of a Greater Consciousness, a Greater Reality beyond our own, we may all at times subjectively experience instances of what we call, paranormal phenomena. At the quantum level, the distinction between physics and metaphysics ceases to have any meaning; here we are in a world where thought, intent, directly affects quantum phenomena. This indicates that Consciousness is ubiquitous and universal, connecting everything that exists at every level. This is why synchronicity happens; why Dr Emotos's positive thought meditations can change the nature of water crystals, why dowsing works, and why some people, at times, have had accurate glimpses of the future.

To me this vision-like image over our veranda is a message: a symbol, a metaphor, that as individuated beings we are still connected to a Greater Consciousness. As created beings we are made in the image of our Creator; we are reflections of a Greater Reality both within and beyond the universe that we are part of.

This has been the consistent message of mystics throughout history and of practically every major religion on our planet, most of which were originally initiated by Celestial or Heavenly visitations or through experiences of paranormal phenomena.

In the specific context of our own experiences and paranormal photographic encounters this image was a confirmation to me that the book I had just

written on prophecy was part of something larger, a small reflection perhaps of that same Wider Reality.

LIGHT BEFORE BIRTH?

Some while ago two distinctly different photographs taken by two people who do not know each other were sent to us on two separate occasions months apart. Both these photographs drew our attention to the concept of the soul and the possibility of life before birth.

Since ancient times people have believed in a wider reality beyond the physical world; this has been expressed through cross-cultural beliefs in gods, demons, elementals and all kinds of spirits and supernatural forces; the belief in reincarnation is a typical example. Where or how the idea of reincarnation originated is unknown. But discussions relating to reincarnation appear in the philosophical traditions of both India and Greece from about the 6th century BC.

According to Julius Caesar the Celtic druids of Gaul, Britain and Ireland held the idea of the soul's rebirth as a fundamental doctrine of their belief.

Reincarnation is widely accepted by the major religions of the East, particularly Hinduism and Buddhism. But the major religions in the Abrahamic tradition – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – do not accept the idea of individual soul reincarnation. However, a few minority sects within these traditions have affirmed a belief in reincarnation: particularly followers of Kabbalah; the Cathars; and in Islam such sects as the Alawi Shias and the Druze, in which context I would recommend investigative journalist Roy Stemman's book, The Big Book of Reincarnation, which documents his specific research into beliefs about reincarnation amongst the Druze of Beirut.

The notions and beliefs about reincarnation may have spread as a result of cross-cultural contact or arisen independently in different regions in the distant past: we simply do not know. What we can be sure of is that for ancient peoples, just as for us, the continuous cycle of birth, death and rebirth, spring time and harvest, permeates the natural world, so it should not be too surprising that thoughtful observers in past times may have philosophized that the human spirit or soul, like the natural world, may also

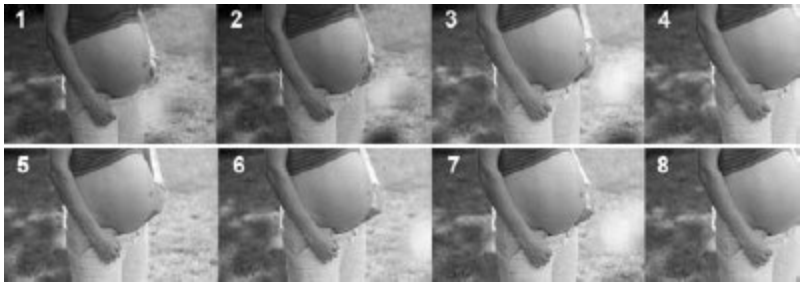
work on a cyclical basis. Like wheat and corn it may live again. And like the butterfly emerging from the chrysalis, at death our souls too may be transformed into a new form of life, perhaps even another human life.

The oldest and most detailed beliefs about reincarnation are to be found within Hinduism. According to Hindu teaching every creature on this planet has a soul; every individual soul is part of the Supreme Soul known as "Parmatma". The individual soul journeys through 84 million other creatures before it is able to attain the human body. (I am not sure how they can be so precise about the numbers here.) But according to Hindu beliefs, the ultimate aim of human life is meant to be one with the Supreme Soul. After death, each individual human death, our soul enters a new body; where and who it becomes depends on our Karma accumulated over past lives. This cycle of death and rebirth continues until we are pure enough to become one with the Supreme Soul.

But whatever version of reincarnation people believe in, there is always the question of when exactly the soul (whatever you conceive it to be) enters the human body. This debate is not restricted to believers in reincarnation: it applies to every religion that believes in the existence of a soul. This has been an issue of major debate in the Christian Church since its beginning. The early Church held various, and sometimes contradictory, views about the soul. St Augustine, for instance, adopted Aristotle's concept of the progressive development of the soul into the full human state during childhood. Following the Hebrew Talmud, St. Thomas Aquinas believed that the soul entered the fetus within the womb about 40 days after conception. Others believed that the soul entered the body as soon as the baby took its first breath outside the womb. In the Vedas, the Hindu sacred scripts, it is written that the soul enters the body immediately at the time of conception. Even today, scientists still disagree as to when exactly Life begins; when does a fetus become a living conscious being? This of course opens up the hotly debated issue of abortion and fetal rights, and how we define the moment of individual consciousness.

Where does life come from? In Genesis 2:7, speaking of the creation of Man, it says that God "… breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul."

Here the Hebrew word “Nephesh” is used and contextually we are given to understand that Man (the entire being) is a soul, rather than his having a soul. The word breath, here is synonymous with the Spirit of life that is given by God. Ecclesiastes 12:7 speaking about death makes this clear: “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” In terms of One Self Existent Spirit of Life, this seems to make more sense than the idea of a separate nebulous soul. For myself I hold no dogmatic views on reincarnation or life after death, but the following series of photographs (immediately below) kindly sent to us by professional photographer, Laura Campion, certainly made us think much further about consciousness and the concept of the Spirit of Life.



This series of photographs above of a pregnant woman, who was almost due to have her baby, were shot in rapid sequence without flash one sunny afternoon by photographer, Laura Campion.

I have simply numbered them in order from 1–8, and if we follow the sequence through you can see a cloud of hazy white light, on pretty much the same level as the baby’s head would be; that progressively moves away from the pregnant woman and then returns to virtually the same position. Some have questioned if what Laura photographed here is some visual indication of an infant consciousness not yet permanently fixed in the unborn child. In certain esoteric teachings it is thought that before birth the baby’s consciousness, as part of a wider consciousness, has the ability to move in and out of the body: a process akin perhaps to astral projection.

Obviously we cannot be certain that this is so but we can be certain that Laura photographed something very unusual here; something that suggests some kind of energetic activity centred on the unborn child. If you look closely at frame 2, what looks like a shadow cast by the white light – is

nothing of the kind; when enlarged it looks definitely more like a vortex than a shadow.

Interestingly, the photographer, Laura Campion, made this comment, “I have to say I was a bit stunned when I saw the shadow too, as it is most definitely moving and with the speed in which my camera shoots it must have been moving at some speed to be showing movement.”

Here opposite is an enlargement of the “shadow” in frame 2, referred to by Laura; as you can clearly see this is something that is moving. Compare this in the enlargements of frames 2 and 3 below.

If we examine these two images, taken seconds apart, we can see that what at first glance appeared to be a shadow is in fact mirroring the white light and moving with it creating a kind of vortex effect in air that is fragmenting the background as it is captured by the camera. What we see here is definitely something unusual; something moving independently but which seems related to the condition of pregnancy. Could this be a visual manifestation of unborn consciousness affecting the mother's energy field? When we asked Laura if there was anything further she could tell us about the baby, she sent this reply:

One thing I would say about the little boy that was unusual was his strength. I photographed him at 6 days old and he was phenomenally strong, able to hold his head up with the strength of a baby of 3 months old. He was actually really hard to photograph as he kept pushing off things and moving himself about. Which for 6 days old is unheard of. He was very alert too, with quite a few shots he was staring straight at the camera, again most unusual.

After this someone suggested to Laura that this effect may be "fluff" in the sensor, but if it was, why is the effect consistently on a specific part of the photograph; not on all the image, and whay is it not on other shots - before and after? As far as I can ascertain digital sensors are none discriminatory in terms of pixilation, anything that affected the sensor would have affected the whole image indiscriminately; not repeatedly affected one specific area across many images.

We later learned that the little boy was born on Laura's birthday.

Is this just random coincidence? In the context of these unusual photographs it seems more probable that we have, yet again, another instance of synchronicity, and the reciprocal visual effects of the wider nature of consciousness.

However, the astounding photographs Laura Campion sent us, as mentioned at the start are not the only ones we were sent relating to pregnancy. The following photograph of light before birth was sent to us by Julie and taken by her partner.

In this image you can clearly see a small bright arrow-like light that has appeared over Julie's left index finger. She was wearing no rings; this is not a reflection, and no flash was used anyway. In the context of the lighting conditions at the time the photograph was taken there is no normal explanation for the presence of this arrow-like light over the index finger. It simply should not be there. Could this be yet another visual manifestation of some kind of interaction of infant consciousness displayed within the energy field of the mother to be?

At the moment there is no way of knowing this for definite but it seems unlikely that the photographs from either Laura or Julie can be explained in normal terms; the probability is that they show the presence of something extraordinary. In the context of our own research and experience in photographing paranormal visual phenomena, we believe both these photographs show the reciprocal affect of interactive consciousness manifesting in the visual spectrum; possibly even evidence for the interaction of the unborn infant spirit with a Wider Consciousness.

Here below is a little anecdote that I recently saw in our Unitarian Fellowship magazine; it has been retold in various forms, but where it originally came from no one knows. Because it links so well with both the theme of this chapter and the concept of a wider Reality beyond, we felt that we just had to include it here; slightly rewritten; it is called:

LIFE AFTER DELIVERY

A mother was having twins. Deep in mother's womb, one twin asked the other, "Do you believe in life after delivery?"

The other replied, "Yes, of course! After all there just has to be something after delivery, we are only here to prepare ourselves for the next life."

"Nonsense!" exclaimed the first twin. "I think there is no life at all after delivery. I mean, how could there be when this is the whole universe, how could there be any life beyond that?"

"I don't know," said the second twin. "But it's very dim here, so maybe it will be lighter there; maybe we will be able to use our legs to walk, do things with our hands, and even eat with our mouths?"

The other laughed. "That is totally absurd! Walking is impossible; anyway we don't need to walk, we float – we are surrounded by water! And eating with our mouth: why – that is completely ridiculous. The umbilical cord has always supplied all the nutrition we need. Anyway life after delivery has to be excluded on scientific grounds; it is patently obvious that the umbilical cord is far too short to stretch beyond delivery!"

"Well," said the second twin. "I still think there is something beyond delivery; perhaps it is just different to what it is here."

The first twin was incredulous!

"What! You can't be serious… no one has ever come back from beyond delivery. Delivery is the end of life. After delivery there is nothing; we simply cease to exist!"

"I can't believe that," said the other, there has to be something! Maybe we will see Mother there and she will take care of us?"

"Mother!" exclaimed the first twin in shocked tones. "Don't tell me you actually believe in Mother? You are simply living in denial of reality… Mother isn't real! If she was, where is she now?"

The other thought for a moment then said, “I think Mother is all around us; it is because She is real that we are here. Without Her our world wouldn’t exist.”

“Rubbish!” exclaimed the first twin. “I don’t see her so it is only logical that she doesn’t exist!”

“Shush!” said the other. “Be quiet, just listen a moment. Hear that distant soft rhythmic beating? It has been with us all our lives. Don’t you find that sound really comforting?”

“Why yes,” said the first twin. “Well, yes, I do… it’s like, like the rhythm of life!

You know, I’m just so used to it I never hear it anymore.”

“You can only hear it when you are really quiet, when you are only really listening,” said the second twin.

“What is it?” asked the first twin.

“That is Mother!” said his sister.

Sometimes regardless of whatever we may surmise we can never really know what lies beyond until we get there; in that sense we always have to expect the unexpected.

FROM ORBS TO BEYOND

Our journey beyond photography began with the mystery of orbs; the appearance of interactive luminosities, and the questions that this raised. It has been a journey of discovery during which we have questioned many things, and seen and experienced many events and phenomena that have led us to a wider spiritual perspective. Looking further back, the tiny twinkling circles of light, (Small Transient Lights) which Katie first saw many years ago before we even met, led her towards the spiritual path we are now both on. Those same tiny lights gave us a vital connection to orbs and luminosities, which in turn led us to photograph all the amazing transformations of this incredible unfolding phenomenon. However, our individual spiritual journey is not dependent on either orbs or paranormal phenomena, no more than it would be on being an artist or studying for a degree; all of which may offer us knowledge or insights but none of which are in themselves spiritual. Being psychic or experiencing paranormal phenomena do not make you any more spiritual than anyone else. As far as we understand it, spirituality is not in some metaphysical state or paranormal experience; it is rather in the quality of our compassion, empathy, and understanding as human beings. In that sense spirituality is as much available to an atheist as it is to a theist. It is our attitudes to experience, whether normal or paranormal, that makes us more or less spiritual as people. What has happened with us, as with everyone, is simply part and parcel of our individual experience; but throughout all the unexpected transitions, synchronicities and mysterious occurrences, orbs and luminosities have been a constant and consistent factor.

Why such a whole range of phenomena has happened here right on our own doorstep, we have no idea. That it happened is all that matters. It is a bit like asking why this has happened at this time to me, when the fact is that it has happened; all we have to do is to choose how we will respond; how we will use the time that is given us. As individual spiritual beings every choice that we each make will make us more, or less. As we said at the beginning of this book, when a piece of the universal puzzle falls in our path, we can choose to ignore it, to walk around it, or we can choose to try and figure out where it fits. That is simply what we, like many others, have tried to do. In

this specific instance our quest began with orbs – your quest may have started elsewhere, everyone is different; each life reflects Reality in its own unique way. Where our journey takes us depends largely on the decisions we make; in our case our research into orbs and the entire related phenomena led us to become members of the Unitarian Movement. As with our exploration into orbs this was a matter of choice. As beings with individuated consciousness and comparative free will we are all in the happy position of being partners with destiny rather than merely puppets of fate. But as well as our choices, history shows us that coincidence and synchronicity also play a vital part in determining our future. This can be seen in some family histories, where "chance" coincidence has not only affected the lives of our ancestors but in turn our own lives.

For instance, Katie's, Grandmother, who was called Elsie, as a young unmarried woman, worked at a firework factory in West Yorkshire. She never missed a day's work but one day she was ill and so didn't go in to work that particular day. This was a day that very definitely determined her future, because that day the gunpowder stored in the factory exploded, killing almost everyone inside! If Elsie hadn't been ill that day, neither Katie nor her own mother, nor most of her family would have probably ever existed! Neither my own life nor the lives of all Katie's friends and relations would be the same as it is now. Perhaps if you look back at your own family history you too may find some synchronistic or coincidental event, which if it hadn't happened exactly when and how it did, meant you probably wouldn't be here now!

Deciding to investigate the orbs phenomenon led to us viewing orbs as visual symbols of Oneness, which in turn led us to join the Unitarian Movement, a decision that has only added to our own spiritual journey. How can I best briefly sum up what being Unitarian is all about. Look for a moment at the photograph below, it is of pebbles on the beach on the Isle of Iona taken by our friend, John Hetherington, for whom Iona has a special significance.

From a distance all the pebbles look pretty much the same – but when we begin to look at them closely we see that every one is uniquely different! And so we end up going home with pockets full of pebbles: gifts from the sea. Like both snowflakes and pebbles, each human being is also different; we have each been shaped by the ocean of Life. Each of our stories is ours alone; no one else anywhere in this world can be the person that you are today – or bring to this life all that you as an individual can contribute – you are unique! Your own spiritual journey and insights are a special unrepeatable one-off offer that will never be seen again! Individuation is the gift of Creation! Unitarians recognize this and value it; this is why within the Unitarian Movement you don't find a package of doctrines, but instead a whole spectrum of positive complimentary beliefs and philosophies that include, Theists, Atheists, Christians, Humanists, Pagans, and many others; all united by the shared values of Truth, Compassion, Freedom, Tolerance and Understanding, which gives it the spiritual dynamic to be an evolving rational Movement with a social conscience. Essentially being Unitarian is about building bridges between people, not walls. To us this seemed to be something worth being part of, especially as it complimented our own belief in the underlying Oneness of Existence. Indeed Unitarians in general view all life on Earth as part of the diverse but interconnected Cosmic Web of Life. We shall look at our own specific Unitarian connection with orbs in the next chapter. But for now we shall return to the subject of Orbs and

Beyond. Some may fail to see why synchronicity or paranormal phenomena is relevant to ordinary life. First, I would say there is no ordinary life – just Life! Secondly, as those who study such subjects know, the paranormal, just like quantum physics, definitely affects everyday events in what we like to think of as the normal world. However, I must point out here that the study of paranormal phenomena does not imply a belief in the supernatural anymore than the study of theology implies a belief in a fundamentalist view of God!

As previously mentioned, in our talks and presentations, we have always been concerned to point out that all experience is subjective; the terms we use are descriptive rather than definitive. In any field of study there are always more opinions than there are facts. In many areas of life, as with conceptual and philosophical perspectives, especially with regard to both quantum physics and metaphysics, we are simply all on a learning curve. The main difference is some of us realise this and others do not!

When we first began to photograph orbs we asked all the obvious questions: were they lens flare, dust, moisture in the air, digital artefacts etc. Of course some photo anomalies may be explicable in those terms; but the fact is, after much investigation, no such prosaic explanations adequately accounted for the photographs we have included in this book of orbs and especially all the other related visual phenomena; added to which we had to account for repeating synchronicities and other experiences connected to the visual phenomena. In that context we have categorised all this as "paranormal" in the sense of being visual and experiential indications of a Wider Reality underpinning or interfacing with our own.

However, as we have pointed out previously, whenever we photograph or record anything by any means, at the very moment we do so, it is part of our physical universe, part of our natural reality. Therefore logically it cannot then be supernatural because we are able to record it by natural conventional means. For instance, whatever paranormal phenomena we and others may have photographed, we have only done so because at the moment of capture it becomes part of the visible light spectrum detectable to our eyes on the wave length of 4000 to 7000 angstroms – between ultra violet and infrared within the infinitely larger electromagnetic spectrum. All

that is visible to us is but a tiny fraction of the immensity of the electromagnetic spectrum. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that the paranormal phenomena we and others have photographed also represents a tiny fraction of a much wider spectrum of Reality. All metaphysical and paranormal phenomena only make sense in the context of a Wider Reality beyond our physical universe. Some would argue that by definition the Universe is everything; there is nothing beyond it. But what if that which we define as the Universe is merely all that is conceivable and detectible to us, as beings locked into the material universe? Is it possible that our situation is comparable to intelligent goldfish swimming around in a huge goldfish bowl? They may make intelligent and correct deductions about their environment but they are always limited by that same environment and have neither the reference points nor the capacity to understand what lies beyond the goldfish bowl. They may see distorted shapes or colours passing beyond the bowl; they may feel the water disturbed for no apparent reason, and they may wonder how food regularly appears on the surface of the water. Intelligent goldfish could devise all kinds of rational and metaphysical concepts to account for such strange phenomena and how it may relate to what they know of their own environment. Is this not exactly what we as human being do? Locked into what we discern to be the universe we are as limited in our understanding of what may lie beyond it as the fish in the bowl. Whether or not something does lie beyond it is, of course, a matter of speculation. In the past it was metaphysics that suggested the presence of something beyond the material universe, but now the most recent research and experiments in quantum physics also strongly suggests that the universe is not entirely as 19th-century rationalism perceived it to be. That there is a Wider Reality beyond, is no longer just a possibility, it is now more than ever before, a probability.

When an anomalous, mysterious or paranormal phenomenon occurs that we cannot instantly slot into the currently acceptable view of reality it may cause us to question – what is it that we are and what is it that we are part of. The very existence of any phenomena, normal or paranormal, can always lead the inquiring mind back to the fundamental question of origins: where did it all start and was there a beginning? To try to understand what is involved here we sometimes have to take a step beyond what may be the acceptable view.

One thing we do know for sure, it is not possible to scientifically prove the Origin of Life; we cannot observe it, and we certainly cannot replicate it. All scientists and philosophers can do is to make rational assumptions based on observations of what is. In science these assumptions are known as theories. The currently acceptable theory about the beginning of the universe is what is now popularly known as Big Bang Theory, the cosmological model of the hot and dense primordial condition that initiated the explosive creation and expansion of the Universe. Big Bang theory was developed from both astronomical observations and theoretical concepts. Originally this was known as the "hypothesis of the primeval atom". Proposed by Georges Lemaître, a Belgian physicist and Roman Catholic priest, but it was astronomer Fred Hoyle who was credited with first using the term "Big Bang" during a BBC radio broadcast in 1949. Big Bang theory relies on two major assumptions: 1. the universality of physical laws as we know them, and 2. the Cosmological Principle, which presupposes that at the largest scales the Universe is homogeneous (uniform in structure and composition) and isotropic (identical in all directions).

The fundamentals of Big Bang Theory – the early hot state, the explosive expansion, the formation of helium and the forming of galaxies – are largely, but not entirely, derived from astronomical observations, including the pervasive cosmic microwave background, the profusion of visible light elements and the immensity of cosmic structure.

Like most previous theories of Origins, Big Bang presupposes a beginning. All that now is had to come from something, because logically Something could never come from Nothing. As Big Bang theory has developed, this initial Something has become much vaguer and slightly lost in the complexities of the theory itself. However, the best guess would be that whatever initiated the Big Bang, flinging energy and matter out in all directions with the explosive force of a billion, trillion thousand megaton atom bombs all going off at the same time, was infinitely smaller than the universe we see around us. In simple physical terms, this minuscule initial dense condition has been likened to a primordial atom about the size of a grapefruit that for some unknown reason exploded in the Big Bang. This immense release of energy resulted in the electromagnetic spectrum; the creation of helium and the formation of stars and galaxies. So even if we

take a purely materialistic view, at some distant point in the past, all diversity that exists now was once One! Everything that was there in the primordial state before the Big Bang is still there now; nothing has been added or taken away. All that has happened, according to Big Bang, is simply that energetically and materially at one explosive point in time, the One became the Many.

Many scientists, for no other reason than for them Divine Creation is not an option, see Big Bang in purely materialistic terms of a random chance event. In those terms Big Bang theory leaves several major questions unanswered, the fundamental one being what caused the Big Bang itself?

However, today the indications from quantum physics are that we do not live in a completely material universe; that synchronicity happens at both the quantum and the material level strongly indicates that what appears to be random chance is nothing of the kind and that all phenomena is underpinned by a connective process pervasive throughout the whole of Existence.

The latest research from practically every discipline, when viewed holistically suggests that this universal connective process is driven by a ubiquitous Consciousness that is extent throughout the whole of Existence, even down to the quantum level. Through many experiments over many years quantum physicists now know that quantum phenomena are affected, not only by the act of observation, but by the conscious intent of observation. If human intent affects phenomena at the quantum level that strongly suggests that consciousness is both interactive and pervasive outside of the human mind. If that is so then our individuated consciousness may only exist in the context of a wider consciousness woven into the whole fabric of Existence.

If that is so, then the beginning of the universe may be something more than simply a Big Bang that occurred for no apparent reason. The very fact that creation exists universally may indicate that there may be a Creator: a Self Existent Reality beyond the created. The notion of a Big Bang happening by random chance, resulting in the coherent complexity of Life as we know it, in terms of probability, is akin to an explosion in a printing factory

resulting in the spontaneous creation of the Oxford English Dictionary! Highly unlikely!

Thinking back to the metaphor of the mirror that we used earlier in this book, we could liken primordial potential (the potential which was there before there was anything) to a mirror that only reflected One Reality. In another sense we could liken it to thought; as individuals we all have the potential for creative thought; when creative thought happens it fills the void where before there was only potential. Before our universe existed, let us assume that there was One Self Existent Creative Reality in which creative thought initiated the act of creation; the dynamic vibration of creation then initiated Motion, energy and matter. The primordial potential that before was only a void was then transformed into a billion trillion fragments of diversity; each piece of which, like pieces of a mirror still reflecting that original One Self Existent Reality. If we view the universe with all its systems, processes and levels of life as a created image of, and by, something else, then we see the possibility that everything may be a reflection of One Creative Reality that is always beyond us, just as we are always beyond the fish in their goldfish bowl universe we mentioned previously in this chapter. It is from this viewpoint that we are looking from orbs to beyond.

So, is there a rational theory which unites both the physical and metaphysical within the essential Oneness of Existence that is derived from One Self Existent Creative Reality? I think there is.

Reciprocal Realities

In my estimation, there is a theory which provides grounds for the possibility that One Self Existent Reality initiated our universe of movement and form; it also has a bearing on the interconnection of consciousness and occurrences of paranormal phenomena. Although I am sure none of this was the intent of the originator of the theory, which is essentially a scientific theory of physical and energetic phenomena

pervading the universe. The theory I will refer to is the Reciprocal System of Physical Theory originated by Dewey B. Larson.

This theory essentially describes the closest thing we have for the basis of a unified theory for all phenomena in the Universe. It was Larson's theory that opened the door on the present day quantum view of the configuration of space inside the atom. In fact the Reciprocal Theory gave scientists a rational and understandable view of the reality underlying quantum phenomena, which Quantum Theory itself failed to provide.

In the Reciprocal System, the cosmos is not a universe of matter, but a universe of Motion, in which the base reality is Motion! All elements – particles, atoms, fields, forces, in fact all forms of energy – are merely manifestations of Motion. What caused Motion is another matter.

In terms of the physical universe the notion of a Reciprocal System is a conceptual innovation of unprecedented proportions which works better at every level than the old scientific paradigm of viewing phenomena as existing in space or in time. This naturally affects how we view the electromagnetic spectrum, which in classic terms was seen as being within space and time. But if both Space and Time are reciprocal aspects of Motion, they do not exist independently and so there is no intrinsic significance to either, except as a common reference to describe phenomena.

If then the only Reality is Motion we have to assume that either Motion is eternal or that it had a beginning. Whichever way we look at this idea it brings us back to the ancient esoteric view that all Existence is Vibration, with both space and time being resonances of this Vibration.

We now know from research and experiments done over many years by quantum physicists, neuroscientists, parapsychologists and cutting edge researchers in many related areas that mind can affect matter; that consciousness is not a closed phenomenon inside the human cranium; that consciousness is interactive and pervasive, even at the quantum level.

This idea of a pervasive interconnected consciousness when put alongside the Reciprocal System theory of Motion being the only base reality, leads, I

believe, to the possibility that a creative consciousness initiated the Primal Act of Creation that we now look back to as The Big Bang.

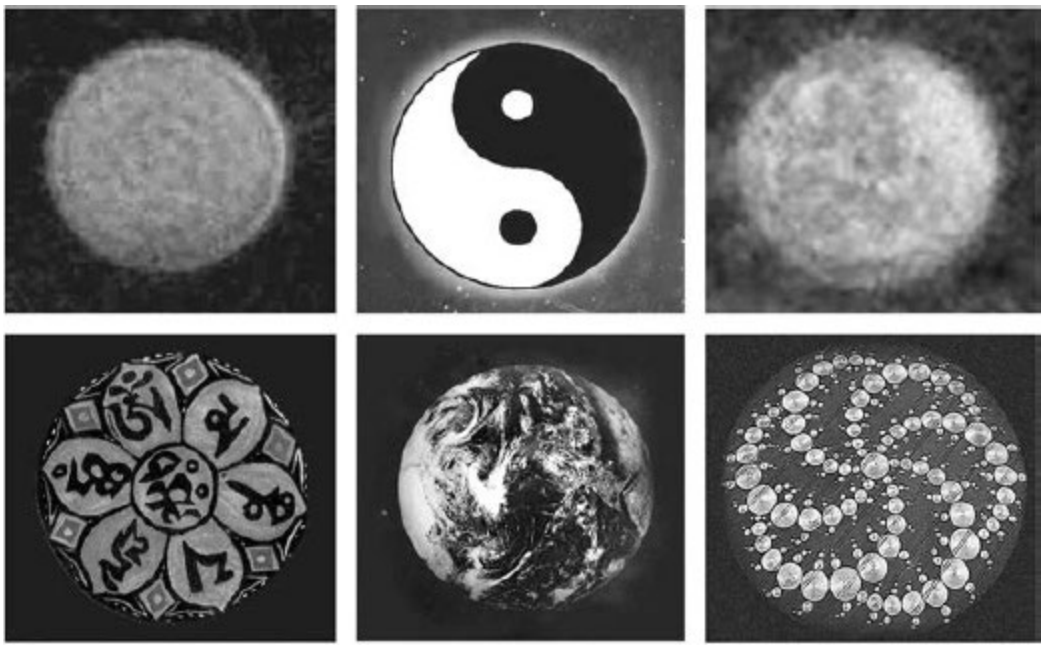
In the Genesis story, verse 1:3, God (The One Eternal Conscious Reality) speaks (vibration) and light (energy) becomes manifest. It seems beyond mere coincidence that the two basic cosmic forces, Light and Vibration, integral to the Hebrew story of Creation are also fundamental to both quantum theory and the Reciprocal System Theory. Certainly if the act of creation was initiated by vibration, then from that point onwards, Motion would be the fundamental universal driving force of all phenomena. Because Frequency is also an aspect of vibration we have the electromagnetic spectrum: Light, in all its wavelengths. We could say that everything that exists is the reciprocal effect of a continual dynamic interchange between One Creative Consciousness and the continual Process of Transformation of Energy that was set in motion by the initial Act of Creation, which itself was manifested through Vibration (Motion).

Taking for granted that all our descriptions of the Totality of Existence are inaccurate and incomplete, the concept of a single Creative Consciousness initiating a universe, in which Consciousness/Thought and Vibration/Motion are pervasive and where all phenomena are reciprocal reflections of that One Act of Creation, parallels the ancient views of mystics throughout history in which the universe is seen as full of movement, flow and change at every level. It is this concept of the harmony and balance of Universal Motion and Diversity that is enshrined in the familiar symbol of Tai Chi – the Yin Yang of Taoist philosophy. In this view of the universe there is no division between natural or supernatural, mind or matter, it is all One – and yet Many.

My own slant on Larson's Reciprocal Theory comes not from quantum physics or from ancient teachings, but from my own experience; so this view of going from orbs to beyond is very much a personal perspective, the roots of which we will look at in the next chapter.

IMAGES OF ONENESS

Sometimes on a good clear night we carry my Newtonian Reflector telescope out into the garden to look at the Moon or one of the planets. It is pitch black at night where we are, so it is ideal for stargazing. Looking up at the night sky often reminds me of how ancient people must have looked up to trace patterns in the stars, wondering what all those tiny glittering lights really were – signs from the gods or holes in the sky? One thing is for sure there is much more to what we see in the heavens than meets the human eye. The same could be said for the phenomena we have photographed: it is the light in the distance; the tip of the iceberg. The same is true for all paranormal phenomena. We never see the complete picture. Just as with the stars above us, there is always more beyond. In looking at the stars ancient peoples made coherent images out of the patterns in the sky; so we now have all the pictograms of star groups and constellations that reflect various mythologies and legends. This all makes for interesting cosmological maps and helps us to find our way around but it really has no other relevance to what is out there. Historically we have done the same thing with paranormal phenomena; it has been labelled and catalogued over the years as this or that. Sometimes it has even been fashionable in esoteric circles to define it as whatever is the most popular view at the time. In my view labelling orbs as angels or spirits or whatever, like naming planets or stars, though it may be a fascinating exercise and useful up to a point, it does not help us to understand the phenomenon. The danger is, just like in the old Zen anecdote about the finger pointing at the moon, we get hooked up on the label, on our own idea (our pointing finger) of what is happening, rather than looking at the reality itself. As mentioned before, we cannot with any intellectual honesty tell people that orbs are angels, or faeries, or whatever may be popular at the time. What has been important to us is the reality of the phenomenon and how engaging with that reality at various levels, rationally, psychologically, imaginatively and spiritually, has affected our lives and the lives of others. In our experience the most important aspect of orbs was their circular shape. Since ancient times the circle has been an important symbol for humanity, from rock carved ring marks on standing stones to the ubiquitous Tai Chi or Yin Yang – all the images of Oneness.



The circle, the orb, the sphere: all these forms have a deep resonance in the human psyche. Throughout history and all across the world they are universal symbols for God, Oneness and Unity. From the beginning it seemed very relevant that the circular symbolism of orbs was appearing all over the world, photographed by all kinds of people, with all kinds of cameras, particularly at a time when oneness and unity are critically meaningful for us as a species; simply because it is one thing that we currently lack, but desperately need. So in orbs we see, not angels or spirits, but Images of Oneness; something that crosses all faith and cultural boundaries; the archetypical symbol that lies at the heart of all religion and metaphysics. Across the centuries it is this image of Oneness that has been fundamental to the spiritual quest of the vast inquiring soul of humanity. For us, seeing this was fundamentally important in relation to that Wider Reality.

Orbs are everywhere; even in outer space! The photograph above is of the biggest “orb” so far known to astronomers: this is the Bubble Nebulae in the constellation of Cassiopeia, which is just over 7,000 light years from Earth. The incredibly huge Bubble Nebula surrounds a star that is forty times more massive than our Sun – a cosmically massive reminder that images of Oneness are a universal phenomenon. Everywhere you look in the Universe you see circles and spheres.

Our solar planets, the stars in their courses and vast galaxies turning in the immensity of space, all follow circular or elliptical orbits. In fact the word orbit comes from the Latin orbitus, meaning circular which comes from orbis meaning orb; so the universe is literally full of orbs; full of cosmic wheels, orbital paths to Oneness!

It was this universal ubiquity of the sphere, the circle as symbols of Oneness that drew us to view orbs as images of Oneness. As far as our own experience went, we could not with any intellectual honesty define orbs as spirits, angels or any of the other currently fashionable New Age icons. What was, and is, important for us are orbs as symbols of Oneness, visual indicators of a Wider Reality. This was something that was already part of our own spiritual journey; orbs were an added dimension affirming the essential importance of Oneness. It was this idea of Oneness that drew us towards the Unitarian Movement, but as we later discovered orbs had a part

in that too, though we did not realise it at the time we first began to learn about the Unitarian perspective. Unitarians are in no way evangelical; in fact you seriously have to want to find them, and often it is more by so called luck, that you do. As mentioned previously Unitarians are a Movement, not a religion, although they initially rose from dissenting Christians and had their roots in the Reformation of 16th-century Europe. The name Unitarian comes from the historic affirmation that God is One, the belief that God is a unity rather than a trinity. Today Unitarians have a spectrum of beliefs that includes both theists and atheists; pagans and humanists; essentially Unitarians view all life as part of the vast interconnected universal web of life in which Oneness underpins all Diversity! I would out myself on the God end of the Unitarian spectrum, which means that I meet the atheists coming the other way, which lends an interesting perspective to spiritual life, which of course merely stagnates if we only converse with those who agree with us. This is why fundamentalists of any persuasion mostly find it difficult to think outside of the doctrinal box.

At this point, in order to explain how the essential Oneness of existence connected us with both orbs and Unitarians we must step back in time for a moment to the time before we knew anything about Unitarians. Back then, when we first began to photograph orbs, for months we could only get them in one room in our home: our sitting room! We just couldn't photograph them anywhere else – no matter how we tried. But it was there, as we have previously related earlier in this book, that an important turning point occurred that gave us a different view of orbs, as an interactive and possibly conscious phenomenon. After that, as you now know, the whole phenomena evolved.

As strange as it may seem the important factor here in relation to Unitarians was that very same sitting room where we had photographed orbs! But we did not discover this until well after we had become members of the Unitarian Movement. After that, our sitting room, being of a reasonable size, became a regular venue for our local Unitarian discussion group. It was not until about four years later that the treasurer, of our Unitarian Chapel, referred us to a book about local history in which he had discovered

the amazing fact that the very first “Quaker-Unitarians” in our area had actually met regularly in our sitting room in the 1840s!

This was the very same room where we had photographed our first “orbs”, which as symbols of Oneness had indirectly led us to the Unitarians and where we now held our own Unitarian meetings!

The synchronicity here was astounding!

Orbs as symbols of Oneness, pointed to the interconnected Circle of Life; for us this also now related to the Unitarian concept of “Oneness in Diversity”. Quite pointedly the connectivity here was not merely symbolic but literal, forming a Unitarian circle of connection through time!

Such synchronistic events often go beyond whatever rational views we may place upon them. First and foremost such personal experiences touch us at an emotional and spiritual level. It is through such meaningful personal experiences that each of us as individuals may engage with the spiritual dynamic for change! Sometimes such changes in our individual lives lead to larger changes in our spiritual perspective that may also affect others. If we look back at history, most key changes in both religion and society have been made because of the personal vision of certain individuals. None of us live unto ourselves alone, everything we do touches others; everything is connected: this is the outworking of Oneness in the world of diversity.

From the ancient stone circles to the Tai Chi symbol, and mystic Mandalas, the circle has been an important symbol in the human psyche. Today we see it repeated in crop circles, in UFO spheres in the sky and in the ubiquitous orb phenomenon being photographed by people all over the world. Is Someone trying to tell us something? Is Something drawing our attention to the most important orb of all – the orb of Earth on which we all live?

The orb of our Earth is beautiful and unique but it is only one small globe of life in a cosmos so vast, it is almost beyond imagining. For instance, the volume of our Sun is so great that you could pour a million Earths into it and still have room to spare! Yet our familiar Sun is just an ordinary star on the periphery of the Milky Way galaxy. It is but one of over 100,000 million stars in our galaxy. In galactic terms Earth is “out in the sticks” at the edge of this vast rotating city of stars, which is but one of billions of other galaxies in the Universe. It takes our solar system over 200 million years to do a complete rotation of our Galaxy. This is called a Cosmic Year. In that context all of human history has been but a flicker of a second!

From all we can see around us the universe is not a finished product – it is a work still in progress. But it seems that this vast and mysterious universe is only part of a much wider reality. In that context we are surrounded by cosmic immensities of which, even with all our knowledge, we still know next to nothing!

In Orbs and Beyond we have travelled full circle, from our first encounters with orbs and luminosities, to a whole range of incredible transitions, visual manifestations and images, which have brought us back again to orbs – but

now as symbols of Oneness that reflects both the primal reality of Existence and the fundamental dynamic underlying human spirituality.

In our travels, people have asked us questions about the paranormal to which we honestly do not know the answers, in this realm there are always more questions than answers. Of course as some have done it is all too easy to speak with authority on the vaguest esoteric matters; after all who is going to challenge you if you claim convincingly enough to be guided by some higher being or have access to some supernatural repository of truth. People will either believe you or not. But the proof of the pudding is always in the eating; as with our pseudo-orb expert we mentioned at the very beginning of this book, who could not back up his claims with action, by their fruits you will know them. This has been unequivocally demonstrated recently when whole galaxies full of channelled masters and higher dimensional entities who for years of churning out prophetic claims about 2012 and the end of the Mayan calendar all turned out to be completely wrong.

We have to be aware that supernatural deceptions may also be driven by super egos. Yes, we may each have our own individual beliefs and experiences about the paranormal, but we have to first concern ourselves with what we know to be true. In most cases the truth is that such experiences are largely subjective; unverifiable and unquantifiable in strictly scientific terms.

Although this does not mean that not being able to quantify or replicate something makes it untrue. It patently does not; we can show good convincing evidence for many things but we cannot prove them scientifically. Indeed most of our views of present reality as it is taught in schools and universities are based on things we cannot prove. For example, Macroevolution by random chance is taught as a fact, yet scientifically it is not a proven fact; nor can we either observe or replicate the origin of Life; all we have are theories or beliefs. In school, for instance, we all learned about Julius Caesar as a historical person. There are writings about him and even statues of him, but all this is only evidence – not absolute proof; it is impossible to scientifically verify that Julius Caesar ever existed. We cannot prove he existed by direct observation or replication; we cannot absolutely

verify his existence as an incontrovertible fact. We simply accept that he existed because the evidence seems to point that way. The same is true in the case of some paranormal phenomena; when all things are considered, although we may not be able to prove it absolutely, the evidence seems to point to it being paranormal rather than a normal occurrence. We have to use labels and categories to separate one thing from another, but in the area of the paranormal to absolutely define such phenomena as say, angels or faeries or whatever, is simply less than intellectually honest, especially when we realise the limitations of labels that we all apply to familiar everyday phenomena. A well-known Zen anecdote makes this clear. One day the Zen master asked his student, "What is that?" Instantly the student confidently replied, "It is a tree, master."

"No," said the master, "that is only the name we give it – what is it?"

Time after time the student came back to the master with all kinds of rational explanations for what it may be, none of them were correct. In the end he gave up and humbly asked, "What is it, master?"

The Zen master relied, "It is a tree!"

The point of this story is, we have no idea what it is! The word "tree" is simply a label, not the reality – if this is true for all natural phenomena, then how can we possibly define paranormal phenomena in any kind of absolute terms. Transparently we cannot.

All any of us, who have encountered such paranormal phenomena can do is to share our individual experiences and thoughts with the hope that this may resonate with the experiences of others, adding to our infinitesimally small store of human knowledge about that Wider Reality. With the paranormal, as with many other areas of inquiry, we must all hold our beliefs and theories on an open hand for, regardless of what anyone else may tell you, the indications are that we are all only seeing the tip of the leaf on a branch on the tree when it comes to that vast unknown Wider Reality beyond our own.

For us, orbs and the other phenomena we have shared with you in this book, have given us an intriguing and inspiring glimpse into new possibilities and

mysteries beyond the commonly accepted views of reality. This has opened up new questions about life and the cosmos. It has taken us from those first orbs we photographed in our sitting room to the wider concept of Oneness. It is not easy for individuated beings to intellectually comprehend Oneness, other than as an abstract concept, unless they have caught a glimpse of the reality of Oneness through personal metaphysical experience. Such encounters with the Wider Reality often bring with them a profound sense of connectedness, which often brings about a spiritual awakening for the individual. Such awakening often results in transformed lives, which is perhaps also a reflection of the vast transformational processes at work in every aspect of Existence.

Oneness can be said to be a bit like an orchestra: made up of many individuals all playing their distinctive parts yet together they form a symphonic wholeness of musical diversity transcending all of them as individuals. For me not only did the phenomenon of orbs, as symbols of Oneness, form a connective circle including Unitarians of the past and present, it also formed a circle that like a planet orbiting the sun, brought me back again to the starting point.

For me this began one summer long ago, when as a boy of fourteen. I was at my Grandmother's house which lay at the edge of a small rural market town. It was the last house in the row right next to open fields. There were comparatively few cars back then so the roads were usually quiet: the summers long and hot. I remember the tarmac on the road in front of the house melting in the afternoon heat and the paths across the fields dry and cracking in the glare of the sun. Haymaking had just finished; the fields were spiky with stubble and the tall square stacks of piled hay bales stood like huge golden monuments in the sunshine.

In those days travellers – gypsies and other itinerant wanderers – were not uncommon in summer, passing as they did along the country roads to who knows where. On this particular afternoon I was messing about in the front garden when along the road came a travelling man. I did not see him until he stopped by our garden gate and asked for a drink of water. So I went inside to get him a drink. My Grandmother had just made a big apple pie, so I got him a slice of that as well. It seemed a good thing to do as he'd most

likely walked a long way and would probably be quite hungry as well as thirsty. This obviously pleased him immensely for he smiled and said, “Thank you, son, that’s very kind of you.” Putting his pack down, he sat by the gate on the corner of the stone wall next to the privet hedge and looked out across the fields as he ate. He didn’t speak, so I leaned on the old green gate and looked out in the same direction. I pointed towards a wooded slope in the distance. “That’s Blue Bell Wood over there.”

He nodded. “So it is!” But he didn’t say anything else.

Looking back now, I find it difficult to say what age the wanderer was – anywhere between twenty-five to forty maybe. Of average height with a short beard he wore his long dark hair tied back and had very bright blue eyes. Possibly an Irish gypsy, though I don’t remember any gold earrings but do I remember his voice had a definite lilt to it, different to the way folks normally talked. I don’t remember seeing a coat, though I think he carried something rolled up in the top of his pack. I recall he wore drab brownish trousers tucked into big old army-type boots, a collarless grey shirt with a belt over it, with some kind of pouch hanging from it. That’s about everything descriptive I can recall with any certainty. After he’d eaten he asked for a piece of paper, so I went back inside and got a tatty old school exercise book I didn’t need. He took a black pencil out of his pack, then wrote on the first page and handed the book back to me. He shouldered his pack and smiled.

“It’s a gift,” he said. “Read it and remember, I pass it to you as it was passed on to me.”

This is what he’d written all those years ago:

There is only One.

And the One is the Many.

Formless and Formed,

Spirit and Matter; Light and Dark,

You and Me;

In each is the All

And All are the One.

Back then even though it was sufficiently interesting enough for me to keep, and remember, it wasn't until many years later that I realised the value of what he'd written. Who he was and why he wrote that I do not know, but the fact that this unknown wanderer gave me something simple but profound that was to be so incredibly relevant in spiritual terms for my future life and individual spiritual quest is so incredibly synchronistic that I do not believe this happened by chance. Just like the orbs this is not just for us alone, but for everyone, to make of it what they will in their own terms. But we must not forget that all paranormal phenomena, all religious or psychic experience means nothing – unless through it we become spiritually transformed individuals. Only changed individuals can change human thinking and action. Humanity will only survive on this world if we are at one with the Earth and with each other: united by values, not divided by religion or politics!

Whatever we each think orbs may be – the circular symbolism of the phenomenon gives us a profound basis from which to focus on the concept of Oneness. Once we realize the relevance of Oneness in our individual lives we will become more connected to each other, to the Earth on which we live, to the diversity of life forms we share this world with, and to a Wider Consciousness and Greater Reality beyond our own. Individuation is connected to diversity and it is only when we see the two in balance that we begin to understand how the reciprocal nature of this Wider Reality may affect and connect us all as temporal beings within space and time.

So it is here that we conclude this part of our journey from Orbs to Beyond. We hope, dear reader, whoever you are, that you have found it an interesting and inspiring glimpse into that sense of Oneness which unites us all in the unfolding mystery and wonder of Life.

APPENDIX A

More About Orbs and How to Photograph Them

The purpose of these appendices is to both provide a summary of some of the material covered in this book and to expand on some themes touched on in the previous pages; of necessity this requires repeating some of what has already been written. It should be noted that our views and speculations are, as with all perceptions of all paranormal phenomena by anyone, largely subjective to our own individual personal experience and understanding.

Summary of the Orb Phenomenon

In our experience there seems to be three key aspects to the orb phenomenon:

1. The ubiquity of orbs: Thousands of individuals all over the world are photographing the same phenomenon with different cameras in widely different conditions.

2. The majority of orbs cannot be adequately explained in prosaic terms: i.e. they are not dust, moisture, digital errors or the planet Venus etc.

3. People all across the world consistently report that orbs respond to individual human thoughts and actions and appear to exhibit purposeful behaviour.

In our own experience, orbs are part of a whole spectrum of paranormal phenomena, which seems to be interconnected and interactive.

Over the past seven years we have photographed an unfolding phenomenon which has included luminosities, columns of light, dynamic light-forms and light beings, but throughout it all, orbs have been the one consistent factor. In one sense perhaps orbs are an invitation to connect the dots because it is,

I believe, no mere coincidence that orbs are connecting people all over the world, crossing religious and cultural boundaries with images of Oneness that all can recognise at a time when our human world desperately needs a sense unity between all peoples and with the ecosphere of Earth in order to survive. Whether we are Christian, Atheist, Buddhist, Jew or Muslim we are all united by the fact of our existence on this one blue sphere. Perhaps Something is drawing our attention to the idea of Oneness and in that context, for us to the most important orb of all – the orb of Earth on which we all live. We need to think seriously about this, because if we cannot learn to live as one people sharing this one world with compassion and empathy for all its diversity of life-forms, our future as a cosmic species will end in the graveyard of a once blue planet that has become a dead world like the Moon.

Misconceptions About Orbs

There have been many popular misconceptions about orbs and luminosities: foremost is the silly notion that orbs are only photographed by digital cameras. This is a complete fallacy. Orbs have been photographed by all kinds of cameras: film, digital, analogue video, even by mobile phones and CCTV – as anyone who has seen one of our presentations will know!

The second glaring misconception trotted out by sceptics is that orbs are merely the result of CMOS errors in digital cameras; this in totally incorrect. The fanciful notion that the same digital error affects every make of camera in the entire world causing them all to photograph orbs is as unlikely as every Crop Formation in the world being made by two old men with a length of rope and wooden planks!

We had a digital camera for two years; we took hundreds of shots during that time and never photographed even a single orb with that camera.

The fact that the majority of people photograph orbs with digital cameras today is due solely to the proliferation of digital technology. Having failed to convince us of the digital explanation for orbs, sceptics, who lack any

empirical knowledge of the subject, will then usually resort to proclaiming that orbs are dust or moisture, or lens flare – or anything other than paranormal.

Earlier in this book you can see an example of an orb behind a person's head taken by an ordinary film camera and you can also see this on the negative. Our photographs, both film and digital, of orbs behind things or people, revealed that such orbs were not digital errors or dust as sceptics claimed. Anything behind an element in a photograph is almost certainly part of the world outside of the camera. Also, dust, pollen or moisture effects always appear in the foreground, they do not appear behind three dimensional objects in a photograph. Some circular anomalies on photographs may be due to ordinary effects such as sunlight striking the lens, rain drops or flash feed-back. But it does not take more than simple observation and common sense to realise which photo-anomalies can be explained as normal events. What we are concerned with are those anomalies that cannot be adequately explained in such terms.

DETECTING PARANORMAL ACTIVITY

Electromagnetic Gadgets

The electromagnetic theory is the best approximation we have to describe frequency events in the phenomenal world. So, does the electromagnetic spectrum influence or affect the detection of paranormal phenomena? This is debatable.

Today's TV Ghost hunters have used various electromagnetic gadgets to great effect: a prime example of which is the Gauss meter, as was used in the popular TV series, Most Haunted.

The beeping of the Gauss meter certainly elicited lots of unwarranted excitement: all good for entertainment but as a scientific tool it is useless for detecting paranormal phenomena. That is not the function for which it was designed. Specifically a Gauss meter is extremely useful for detecting

microwaves, mobile phones, wireless broadband and other sources of electromagnetic radiation, which it is designed to detect, and eliminating them as a possible cause of any paranormal incursion. Strangely, for some reason, on TV it mostly seemed to work the other way round. A Gauss meter is great for discovering leaks in your microwave but not in the astral plane!

Psychic phenomena usually only registers (if at all) very subtle changes in the background radiation level of the normal electromagnetic environment; a much better gadget to monitor this is a Natural Electromagnetic Field Meter (NEF). This less beepy but much more effective meter has the capacity to blank out our human generated electromagnetic fields and read only the natural magnetic field. If you set up the NEF meter in a room it will calibrate itself to the natural electromagnetic level there and register any small changes in that environment, such as when another person or animal – or anything with an electrostatic field comes within range.

Cross Referencing

When attempting to photograph paranormal events, especially for research purposes, it is useful to cross-reference your still shots or video. You could try using a combination of the following:

NEF meter readings,

Audio recording: Mini-disc recorder with stereo microphone and headphones.

Infrared digital video recording.

It also helps to have someone who is empathic or psychic working with you; someone who is well balanced and preferably not committed to any particular belief about the meaning of the phenomenon. It is also necessary to be duly sceptical, to first look for all possible natural explanations before jumping to conclusions or instantly labelling whatever it is as paranormal.

You need to be quietly focused: the screaming and shrieking you may have seen on some TV programs, supposedly investigating the paranormal, is all to do with entertainment and nothing to do with any serious investigation. Photographing or recording paranormal phenomena is more like being a wildlife photographer; you have to be patient, careful, methodical and dedicated.

How to Photograph Orbs

The great thing about orbs is that they are there for everyone, whoever you are, wherever you are. You don't need to be in a sacred place to photograph orbs – in fact they are more likely to appear in your home or garden than in a church or temple. Orbs seem to respond to individual emotions and positive frequencies – but they are not a predictable phenomenon. They may appear when you least expect them, but equally, they may also appear if you ask them to.

Seven Guidelines for Photographing Orbs

1. It doesn't matter what kind of camera you use – you can photograph orbs equally well with an SLR film camera or an analogue video camera as you can with a digital camera. It is not the means which is important, but the interaction between you as an individual and the Wider Reality which generates the orbs phenomenon.

2. Use your common sense: avoid taking photographs in dubious conditions, such as shooting directly into strong sunlight or on wet or misty nights or in places where there may be any kind of light contamination from other sources. Dusk is an ideal time but you can also get orbs in daylight. Don't shoot into the sun. You want to be as sure as you can be that your photographic results are the genuine article. Anything less is as pointless as a person trying to have a relationship with a window dummy.

3. Treat the phenomenon with respect. Don't try to take photographs in a hurry.

Take time. Make your intentions known, in whatever way seems best to you. But you could try asking at the beginning of your session and saying thank you at the end.

4. Remember, the photographs are only the visual aspect of the phenomena – as you become more in tune with the phenomena you will begin to notice that it is relating to you as an individual. You may notice increased instances of synchronicity in your life.

5. Be aware that orbs come in all sizes from the very tiny to huge orbs over twenty feet in diameter. An apparently tiny orb may be large but far away – and vice versa.

6. Some orbs may have bits missing this may be because they have not completely manifested – or because the camera shutter has cropped them.

7. Some believe the various colours of orbs relate to electromagnetic frequencies beyond the visual spectrum. Others believe them to represent the colours of the chakras. All this is open to question and to your own insights and investigations.

Photographing orbs is an opportunity for people everywhere to become connected with images of Oneness and to be part of a new spiritual perspective.

APPENDIX B

Further into the Light and Questions About Dark Entities

Concerning Light

When we first began to question what was appearing on our photographs we had to look at what made it possible for us to photograph orbs, or anything else for that matter – and that meant we had to look at Light!

Everything we normally see or photograph falls within the visible light wavelength of 4000 to 7000 angstroms between ultra violet and infrared in the electromagnetic spectrum. Wavelengths too short for us to see are bluer than blue, this is ultraviolet light and wavelengths too long for us to see are redder than red, this is infrared light.

The electromagnetic spectrum ranges from the shortest wavelengths – gamma rays, to the longest – radio waves. Light waves are measured in Angstroms, micrometers, centimetres and metres. If we were to reduce the electromagnetic spectrum to say, a schematic diagram 157 mm long, and mark off sections to represent gamma rays, X-rays, ultraviolet, infrared and radio waves, the visual spectrum (all that is visible to our naked eyes) would represent only a mere 5mm on that scale!

This gives a small indication of the comparatively narrow band of what we actually see; yet, even that is a bit like putting your thumb over a pocket Atlas map of Australia. The reality is vastly different to the representation. In terms of frequencies the extent of the visual spectrum is immense.

For example, red light emits at 428,570 billion cycles per second and every time you look at red light, your eye receives over four hundred trillion waves every second!

Some researchers claim that orbs are manifesting in, or from, the infrared, which is the closest frequency to our visible light spectrum.

This may be one reason why digital cameras in particular pick up lots of orbs, because they see further into the infrared than film cameras. Even so, digital cameras merely translate infrared colours into visual spectrum wavelengths.

For anything to be seen or photographed, if only for a fraction of a second, it has to be part of our visual spectrum and therefore part of normal reality. This raises the question as to whether any photographs of ghosts, UFOs, orbs, or whatever, can truly be said to be "paranormal" because at the very moment we photograph them, they are already part of our normal physical reality. This calls into question the whole idea of the so-called "supernatural" as opposed to the "natural" world. Today, in the Universe currently being revealed to us through quantum mechanics and theoretical physics – String Theory and the Reciprocal System Theory – such dualistic distinctions are becoming as irrelevant as Ptolemy's view of an Earth-centred Universe.

According to Genesis 1:3, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

Light is the means by which we are able to see and record phenomena both normal and paranormal. Humanity's earliest experiences with light were of the natural world: sunlight, fire, and the reflective and refractive (light bending) nature of water or crystals.

The refracted light of the Rainbow has inspired spiritual insights and beliefs for many thousands of years: the colours of the seven Chakras, for instance, are derived from the seven colours of the Rainbow.

In 1704, Isaac Newton published Opticks, his great work on light, but long before that, in 300 BC, Euclid of Alexandria had made the first recorded observations about visual phenomena in an in-depth study of visible light, called Optica. Here Euclid defined the laws of reflection of light from smooth surfaces. Both Aristotle and the great Sicilian mathematician Archimedes also studied the nature of light. But it wasn't until the 1800s

when Michael Faraday first proposed the idea of electromagnetism, that we saw the beginning of the electromagnetic spectrum as we know it today. Even so, Faraday didn't have the mathematical skills to prove his theory and it wasn't until it near the end of Faraday's life, that James Clark Maxwell formulated the electromagnetic theory, which united all previously unrelated observations and experiments of optics, electricity and magnetism into a consistent theory. Maxwell's equations elegantly demonstrated that electricity, magnetism and visible light are all manifestations of the electromagnetic field.

Normally we are incapable of perceiving the vastness of the electromagnetic spectrum and therefore entities or phenomena that may exist in other frequencies are invisible to us – but photographs of paranormal phenomena show that there are exceptions.

Because of the known limitations of the frequencies in the visual spectrum anything we can see or photograph should not, in terms of the old physics, be paranormal – and yet the images many of us have taken patently are paranormal, at least in terms of transcending the accepted materialist view of reality. Most of the images we ourselves have taken should not be there – and yet they are! Even more astounding is that using standard equipment we were able to photograph them!

Maybe we should not be too surprised, because even today the nature of light and the electromagnetic spectrum in general is far from being understood in totality. Newton for instance, believed light to be particles and was completely mystified as to why certain objects reflected certain colours, which in turn affected the eye's ability to perceive those colours. Later, Thomas Young came along to prove that light was waves not particles, and his simple demonstration of this theory changed the way scientists viewed light. Much later still, Albert Einstein put forward the view that light contained photons, which made sense in terms of Einstein's own physical theories but conflicted with Young's wave theory of light. Even to this day there is some dispute as to whether light is made up of photonic particles or waves. The best scientific compromise so far is that light can be viewed as either, depending on the prevailing conditions.

It seems unlikely that science will have a complete answer to the paradox of light until scientists themselves completely understand the total nature of gravity, electricity and magnetism. Are these primary forces in themselves or by-products of fundamental forces yet to be discovered? So far no one really knows the answer to this.

Werner Heisenberg, the 20th-century German physicist, recognised the immense conceptual problems faced by physicists delving into the subatomic world in which classical materialist concepts of physics no longer worked. Heisenberg's work led to the formulation of the "Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle", which is basically a set of mathematical relations that determine the limits by which classical physics may be applied to subatomic phenomena.

In the realm of quantum physics both the observer and the observed are part of the same event. In this subatomic quantum universe scientists influence the properties of observed objects, simply by observing them. At this level of reality, space, time, light, dark, cause and effect, all lose their meaning. The base reality of Existence at the quantum level seems to be metaphysical rather than material. In that context, as we cannot separate either visible light, or indeed the whole of the electromagnetic spectrum, from quantum realities underpinning material existence, the occurrence of paranormal visual anomalies may be natural indicators of the existence of a Wider Reality implied by the work of many present day cosmologists and quantum theorists. In short – there is ample room for both normal and paranormal events in the Universe being revealed to us by today's cutting-edge science.

When God said, "Let there be Light", he called into being a fundamental principle both cosmic and spiritual that affects all life everywhere. In terms of material reality, it is within the One Light of that first burst of creative energy that we live and move through space and time! In metaphysical terms, we understand that from the light of a billion stars to the flicker of single candle flame – all Light is One! Within this Light are all phenomena, normal and paranormal, and it is by this Light that we humans are able, at times, to glimpse a Wider Reality. Whenever we do that, and try to figure out where it all fits, however puzzling it may be, we are no longer mere bystanders but participants in the mystery and wonder of Existence!

Light-Forms and Other Apparitions

In this section we shall comment on some of the apparitions we have taken and look in brief at some of the implications and meanings. Our photographic voyage into paranormal photography started with orbs and luminosities but that was only just the beginning. Although orbs have been a constant factor, the phenomena soon began to change into other more exotic visual forms.

We labelled these mysterious transitions variously as Light Rods, Winged-things, Faerie-like, Sprites, Light-Forms and Light Beings.

But do remember, as mentioned previously, all these terms are descriptive – but not definitive.

What they really are is still open to question and further research. Labels certainly helped us to categorize the various visual manifestations which had common features. Simply calling them all "apparitions" didn't seem any more helpful than calling all non-human creatures "animals"! There is a world of difference between a horse and a bumblebee – and so it seemed with the various transitions the phenomena was manifesting. Visually there were clearly different groupings or types. The appearance of the first "Winged Thing" made us aware that we may be dealing with some kind of evolving phenomena. At first the odd bright little bundles of energy, which we also thought of as "Faerie-like", seemed to be a more complex form of the luminosity end of the orbs spectrum. This seemed a reasonable assumption, as after we'd got that first image of a "Winged Thing", we were soon regularly getting images of other faerie-like forms along with our usual photographs of orbs. The more shots we took, the more we became convinced that the faerie-like forms were essentially the same phenomena as orbs and luminosities, just configured differently.

This was the beginning of a consistent and repeating aspect of the whole phenomena. Once we got one unusual image that we'd never photographed before, it repeated and recurred over and over again – until a different transition manifested. What we called "Light Rods" were another such case,

except this time the phenomenon was, at least on occasions, also visible to the eye, and moving, just as with the Luminosities.

The same sporadic visibility later happened with Light-Forms and Light Beings.

In the beginning, although we took hundreds of shots we only got orbs; after that we only got a specific transition appearing until a different transition occurred. However, over the past few years we have had instances of all the transitory forms occurring randomly, almost as though all the stages of the phenomena are now complete.

We have been privileged to have photographed most of these amazing transitions.

Light-Forms

After the Light Rods the next major transition was the appearance of what we termed “Light-Forms” which were also accompanied, in their close proximity, by some kind of electrostatic effect in the air, such as may be felt during a thunderstorm.

The distinctive visual impression of these Light-Forms was of a swirling dynamic vapour that seemed to have structure to it – which ordinary mist does not. Nor did we ever get any vaporous forms before taking that shot of the first Light-Form in which Katie is literally enveloped in a thick curling vapour. Typically, as with the start of every transition, orbs and luminosities were present at the first appearances.

Light-Forms may be seen by some as having a ghostly aspect, but we never thought of them as any kind of spooky entities at all; these mysterious ethereal forms seemed to us as things of beauty, more like works of transient art.

Light-Forms may be “spirit phenomenon”, but all we can say is that we certainly never felt in any sense at all that we were in the presence of ghosts

or spirits of the departed. There is little doubt that spirit phenomena exists – phantom forms and haunted houses – all of which are well recorded by other authors. Many tales of ghosts and spirits include strange light phenomena, such as floating lights, columns of light, luminous mists and flickering flame-like effects. In some places the regular appearance of misty forms may have given rise to ghostly tales with which to frighten listeners on dark nights. But for us there was never anything remotely frightening about the Light-Forms: rather there was a joy about them, an excitement, such as you may feel in the long grass of a windblown meadow or stepping out of your door on the first sunny day of spring.

If this phenomenon was supernatural then it was so naturally a part of our reality that the distinctions between normal and paranormal no longer seemed to have meaning.

Dark Entities?

Where there is Light there is also Dark – one cannot be known without the other.

In our dualistic world, we usually see Light as Good and Dark as Evil, but intrinsically both Light and Dark are essential for the Whole: as symbolised in the Tai Chi, they are neither good nor evil, just aspects of the ebb and flow of Existence.

We shoot into the dark, and orbs, luminosities, light-forms and light beings appear!

All we ourselves have photographed or experienced of these phenomena has been spiritually inspiring rather than the reverse. But as some may see all contact with paranormal phenomena as an invitation for dark or evil entities we shall now endeavour to address this conceptual error.

In our experience what may be commonly described as dark entities do not pose for photographs for they inhabit a much different sphere of activity.

Nor do they leap out of graveyards at night to scare us, because they simply do not need to! These kinds of spooks are the inhabitants of fantasy films and books about vampires, werewolves and other such fictional fright-fests. The reality of dark entities and negative forces is quite different and much more insidious.

To get a spiritual perspective on this let us turn to St Paul who said, “We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers of the darkness of this world.”

The darkness Paul speaks of here is a spiritual darkness; this is the sphere where dark entities are active. Like Dark Matter they exist invisible in the gaps between selflessness and selfishness; between goodness and cruelty; between truth and a lie! Dark entities are the invisible deceivers but their effects in our world can be seen and felt nevertheless.

We only have to look back at history, or read today’s news to see the terrible effects of dark entities on their human hosts and their prey: diabolical dictators, genocidal mass-murderers, terrorists and child molesters, the callous exploiters of the weak and vulnerable everywhere.

It seems likely that dark entities and the “rulers of the darkness of this world” which Paul spoke of, are one and the same: and their remit seems simply to destroy the human spirit and to stunt and retard human spiritual development.

Dark entities are the psychic vampires of the Soul. Even within our own “civilised society”, we can see dark forces at work attempting to degrade or destroy human souls. For wherever there is addiction, whether to drugs or alcohol, where there are psychopaths, drug pushers, and abusers or corrupters of innocence, dark entities are there like vampires, feeding on human hopelessness. Wherever there is cruelty, indifference or lack of love and compassion, dark entities are there too!

Some psychics have reported dark entities around those addicted to alcohol or drugs. But aside from addictions, these psychic predators can affect ordinary lives in other ways: a common parallel to dark entities can be seen in the Clinical definition of a Controlling Personality. As many innocent

ordinary people fall prey to this it is worth mentioning here. Controlling Personalities are so cunning and conniving we do not usually see them coming! In cults or religious communities Controlling Personalities will often claim to speak for God. In the New Age they may try to establish control by claiming to know you in a past life. But whatever ruse they employ it will always be under the guise of offering help or protection that only they can give, but ultimately you are a victim to feed their needs. You may not even realize you are a victim once they have a foothold in your psyche! Once established as your "friend and protector" they will try to erode past relationships with all those who love you, such as your family and friends, simply because anyone who really loves you is always a threat to their control.

Dark entities operate on the same divisive basis: addiction, religion, politics, and anything that can be used to divide humanity and degrade or stunt its spiritual growth is the province of dark entities! But in reality dark entities have no power – except that which we give them! As with the individual who has defeated alcoholism, humanity needs to take back the power to say No to negative forces and Yes, to positive living!

Only Love can empower us to do this. If anyone you know seems to be the prey of dark entities, you can help them by sending them love and compassion whenever you pray or meditate; by living compassionately but rooted in reality. You cannot condone either by your words or actions anything that is destructive for the individual. A consistent, compassionate example by the way you live, really could help to free them. In that sense you have to be a Spiritual Warrior.

The Spiritual Warrior

There are many agencies set to damage this world and its people, many battles to fight, many causes for truth, freedom and humanity. Take Jesus for example: when we examine the gospel accounts the Love that Jesus spoke of was anything but meek and mild, it was radical and revolutionary! His followers endured years of persecution and thousands gave up their

lives because of it. Jesus' views on love and freedom went against everything the might of Rome stood for and yet Rome fell, and Jesus' teaching about Love and Freedom spread across the world. Once our consciousness is orientated towards that Love which Jesus and other spiritual teachers have spoken about, once we have taken that on aboard as a spiritual reality in our lives, we are well on the way to becoming Spiritual Warriors. In that context compassion is not something passive at all; just like truth it is a primary weapon of the Spiritual Warrior!

Like the Jedi's light saber, once unleashed it can cut through the darkness. As with truth, compassion is both the challenge and the means by which we can effect positive change in this world!

Two statements which may help to give us a solid objective reference point for compassionate living and help make us more effective Spiritual Warriors are these:

The first is from Jesus, who said,

"... in as much as you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me."

The second statement is this:

"If we are not part of the solution, we are part of the problem."

Implicit in both these statements is personal responsibility for our own actions and the way we live in relation to the world in general, and to others, especially to the weak and vulnerable.

In practical terms this simply means that we have to be part of the answer, rather than part of the problem! Living compassionately then, means that we do not condone by our lives or example anything which exploits, degrades or damages this world or its people.

Once we understand what compassionate living really means, we can better identify the main causes of human suffering, exploitation and world problems.

We can then more clearly act in such a way as to minimize or counteract those things in our own lives. In that sense, compassion is not a fuzzy feeling, but often a deliberate, positive act of the will in relation to others and to the world we all share.

When we externalise the spiritual reality of love in our lives we become effective Spiritual Warriors in the battle against dark entities everywhere for no spiritual darkness can exist when confronted by the Light of Love given unselfishly, consistently and compassionately for the sake of others.

APPENDIX C

Through the Looking Glass and Thinking Out of the Box

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

When Alice stepped through the looking glass she found herself in a world far different to that of 19th-century England. The world revealed to us now by quantum physics and Chaos Theory is as far removed from the world of 19th-century rationalism as a butterfly is from a steam engine: for a butterfly is far more complex, sophisticated and infinitely superior! A butterfly is part of the matrix of Existence in a way that manmade cogs and wheels will never be.

In stark contrast to old 19th- and 20th-century conventional science, where space and time were seen as the framework within which the drama of Existence is played out, today's quantum mechanics reveal an entirely different view of the cosmos. This is graphically expressed in Dewey B. Larson's Reciprocal System of Physical Theory, which is accepted by many quantum physicists, as being a better explanation of quantum realities than quantum theory alone can produce. In the Reciprocal Theory Time and Space are not absolute or self-existent; they are both reciprocal effects of One Primary Reality: Motion!

Science recognises two types of motion: Linear or Vector Motion, which has two characteristics, a magnitude and a direction – and Scalar Motion which has only a magnitude. It is this "scalar motion" or speed that is the content of the physical universe, moreover, it is the only sole content. Through quantum physics we now glimpse the inexplicable processes underlying all existence: here we see not a universe of matter, but a universe of motion, in which the only base reality is Motion! All primary elements: particles, atoms, fields, forces, in fact all forms of energy – are merely manifestations of Motion!

In this new paradigm Space and Time are both reciprocal aspects of Motion, and do not exist independently. There is no intrinsic significance to either time or space, except as a common reference to describe phenomena. This very pertinently reinforces ancient metaphysical views in which all Existence is seen as Vibration: matter, space and time being resonances of this Vibration. At the quantum level everything is continually moving; that which has no motion, cannot not exist!

Taking for granted that all our descriptions of the Totality of Existence are inaccurate and incomplete, the concept of a Reciprocal Reality Universe in which Motion is the primary basis of everything, parallels the visionary views of mystics throughout history in which the Universe is seen as a dynamic holistic whole, full of movement, flow and change at every level. It is this concept of the harmony and balance of Universal Motion and Diversity that is enshrined in the familiar symbol of Tai Chi – the Yin Yang of Taoist philosophy, which is also the symbol of Primordial Unity: of Oneness! Yet at our level, this Oneness seems fragmented into a myriad of diverse forms!

In Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking Glass" there is an interesting conversation between Alice and the White Queen, who said that in her realm "memory works both ways." Just like Alice, the Queen remembers things from the past, but she also remembers "things that happened the week after next."

Alice just can't believe this, and says, "I'm sure mine only works one way… I can't remember things before they happen."

The White Queen isn't impressed and replies, "It's a poor sort of memory that only works backwards."

In terms of what we are now learning from quantum physics this may not be as incredible as it sounds: if Oneness exists, both past and future will co-exist at the same time. We now know that the same photon can be in two places at once, and that the very intention of observing quantum phenomena affects the way that such phenomenon behaves!

From this and in many other experiments that have been repeated and replicated over the last decades we now know that intent affects quantum phenomena: this strongly suggests that consciousness is not merely some electro-chemical process locked inside your head, but a dynamic and interactive force that is pervasive through time and space. Essentially in terms of the concept of Oneness, consciousness is ubiquitous: connecting everything everywhere, all the time. There is more to the phrase, "Through the Looking Glass", in quantum terms than meets the eye.

For instance, a mirror is a reflection of reality. As a single complete mirror it reflects that reality, but if you shatter it into a thousand pieces, all those tiny pieces of the mirror still reflect reality! Metaphorically this is a reflection of what happened in the Big Bang, or at the moment of Creation. The One became the many which in all its billions of parts and levels still reflects the One Single Original Reality!

In the first chapter of Genesis, the Act of Creation begins with the spoken words, "Let there be light!" Here vibration, motion, initiates creation. This is qualified in the New Testament, in John 1:1 where we read, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Here again we are confronted with the idea that the Word (vibration) is the One Primary Reality! Just as with the Big Bang in terms of the physical Universe, in which energetically and materially all was once One Primordial Singularity, so in metaphysical terms the Base Reality of the Word or Vibration is the Oneness that underlies all Existence!

Without movement of thought or action there is no creativity and without the One Single Act of Creation there would be no Universal Diversity! For me Reciprocal Theory, ties together quantum physics and metaphysics in a workable concept of a universe of diversity reflecting the underlying Oneness of both Consciousness and Existence. If we accept the idea of Universal Oneness, in which all the myriad parts, like the shattered mirror, are reflections of that same One Reality that existed in the beginning, then individual consciousness is also a fractal reflection of the universal Oneness of Consciousness! Put in that context, Jung's idea of a Collective Unconscious, unbounded by time or space would make sense of

synchronicity, clairvoyance and the spiritual insights of mystics. If Oneness exists, then as with God, it is present everywhere all the time!

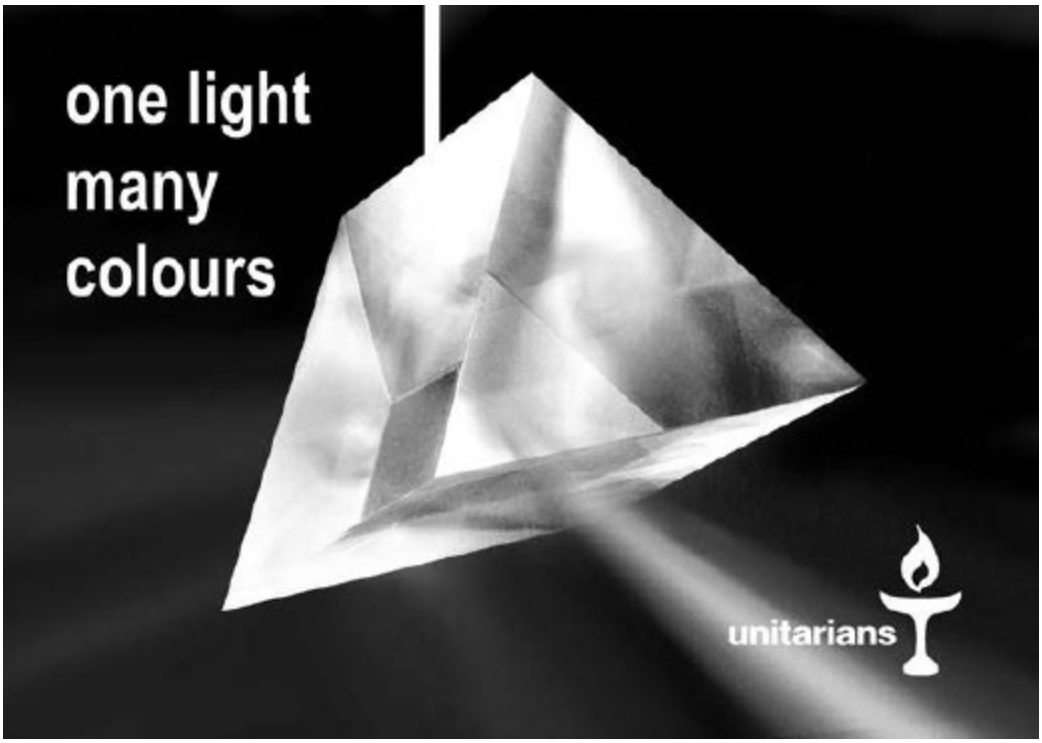
The concept of Oneness is expressed through positive values and principles: Truth, Compassion, Understanding, Justice and Liberty. All these form a Circle of spiritual inclusiveness and freedom, rather than the walls of division and separation erected by fundamentalist religion or politics.

For instance, Quakers and Unitarians are founded on these positive values, on the idea of inclusiveness, of building bridges between people rather than walls. Certainly Unitarians have the capacity to accept new possibilities: unbounded by static dogma they are free to reflect the fundamental cosmic dynamic of Creative Thought!

In the concept of Oneness we have an indivisible quantum basis for a living spirituality that connects us with the very fabric of the Universe! In the concept of Oneness we engage with the dynamic principle underlying Existence. Whichever way we look at it, only a spirituality that reflects this is of any real value for the future of humanity.

One Light: Many Colours

When Newton split white light through a prism and revealed all the colours of the rainbow – it was a radical step forward that led to the understanding of the Electromagnetic Spectrum. Not long after joining our local Unitarians this is what inspired me to create the postcard below depicting a prism and a rainbow, for it seemed to me that the Unitarian ethos is like that prism – One light – but many colours!



This idea is reflected in the lighting of a chalice candle at the start of every Unitarian service or meeting. Lighting the chalice is not only a symbol of the light of compassion, truth and freedom but is also a tangible reminder that though the flames are many, the Light is One! Here we have a meaningful embodiment of the dynamic cosmic principle of Oneness reflected in Diversity.

The One is The Many! This is the same concept which is beautifully depicted by the ancient Tai Chi symbol and today eloquently expressed scientifically through the Reciprocal Theory of Physical Systems. For Unitarians it is also enshrined within Unitarian principles and values! Being Unitarian equals Spiritual Freedom, Community and Shared Values! The Capacity to evolve and change, without fearing new possibilities! Such a dynamic spiritual perspective reflects cosmic fundamental principles and realities!

Being Unitarian offers a progressive practical spirituality, which is, I believe, is the most realistic spiritual perspective for humanity in the 21st-century and beyond. For me the concept of many flames but One Light echoed the words I was given as a child, which are worth repeating here:

THERE IS ONLY ONE.

AND THE ONE IS THE MANY:

FORMLESS AND FORMED,

SPIRIT AND MATTER; LIGHT AND DARK,

YOU AND ME.

IN EACH IS THE ALL

AND ALL ARE THE ONE.

This concept of Oneness runs parallel to the new physics and is evidenced in the work of cutting-edge researchers such as Cleve Backster who has highlighted what he termed, “Primary Perception” (consciousness) in plants. Backster’s later research also convincingly demonstrated that human tissue responded to the emotions of the donors, even though separated by distance, which strongly suggests that consciousness is not localised within the body. The work of Dr Masaru Emoto has graphically documented the fact that concentrated positive intention can affect the structure of water crystals, making that which was impure, whole again. The work of both Backster and Emotto show that consciousness is not limited spatially – and indeed may be everywhere.

If focussed thought can affect the physical structure of water crystals, it can surely affect us and the world around us. For if we factor consciousness into the context of the vibrational universe of Reciprocal Reality we begin to see the that perhaps Time and Space are not only manifestations of Motion but that Motion itself may be an effect of Consciousness: an omnipresent dynamic Consciousness connecting everything.

Today in the Universe revealed by modern advances in Neurosciences and Quantum Physics we see the probability of a metaphysical basis for Existence where we are part of a Wider Reality; in that context the reciprocal effects of a Greater Consciousness may well generate paranormal phenomena in our own physical reality.

Quantum Theory, String Theory, Reciprocal Reality, the Taoist Yin Yang, the Universal Mind, The Creator Spirit: all these concepts give us a small glimpse into the possibility of a multidimensional intelligent universe in which at every level, paranormal events may be symptomatic of a connective Consciousness pervading the whole of Existence, which is itself the reflection of a much Wider Reality beyond. In this new paradigm the material Universe is not the whole – it is merely part of a larger picture we have only just begun to notice. The more we learn about the quantum universe the more we are faced with intangibles and paradoxes that do not fit with natural physics at the everyday level, and which increasingly endorse a metaphysical basis for Existence. That we live in a material universe based purely on random chance seems less and less likely at the quantum level, which reflects a single metaphysical dynamic as the Source of all phenomena at every level of Existence. The inherent interconnectedness and design of the whole thereby implies a Designer: a Creator or Creative Process that is separate to and beyond creation.

This metaphysical basis for Existence is something that has been advocated or implied by mystics, spiritual teachers and philosophers since ancient times.

One of the fathers of modern rational philosophy, Immanuel Kant, his Preamble put it this way:

The very concept of metaphysics ensures that the sources of metaphysics can't be empirical. If something could be known through the senses that would automatically show that it doesn't belong to metaphysics; that's an upshot of the meaning of the word 'metaphysics.' Its basic principles can never be taken from experience, nor can its basic concepts; for it is not to be physical but metaphysical knowledge, so it must be beyond experience.

It is to this "beyond experience" that I believe all paranormal phenomena points; we can only see it as a reflection because we have neither the reference points nor the capacity to see or understand the whole. We can see the indications that it is there, just like we can tell when the wind blows, but we cannot see it directly; it is always beyond us. When we go to the seaside and look at the waves, we are not actually seeing waves at all – what we are seeing is the water that is the medium through which waves flow. The

energy of the wave is translated through water just as the ripples from that Wider Reality are translated through paranormal phenomena. As with a painting we have to be careful not to mistake the medium for the art that is expressed through it: for great art is always more than the material sum of its parts. All art reflects its creator but it is not the creator: for the creator is always separate from the work, always more than the two- or three-dimensional image. Reflections of the Creator are always within us and around us, but the Reality of the Creator is always more: always beyond us.

At one time religion was the final arbiter of all truth – then it was science. We cannot look with hope to any system whether religious or scientific that has become moribund by dogmatism. But in the Universe as we see it today there is plenty of room for both science and belief: for both physics and metaphysics. Only truly unbiased scientific inquiry and compassionate spirituality will help us to see the indications of that Wider Reality.

The fundamental reflection of that Reality is Movement, both physical and spiritual. We live in a dynamic Universe and it is, I think, most probable that in our world, only those individuals, systems and beliefs which reflect that dynamic process will persist to survive into the future. In our Universe there is no future without change. In the familiar Yin Yang symbol we see the One that is the Many: a constant flow of movement, Light and Dark, Time and Space, in the Cosmic Singularity of Diversity.

It was this awareness of Oneness which led us to support the Unitarian Movement. For it is an open-minded Movement without dogma, in which both theists and atheists are equally at home: united by values, not divided by doctrines. The Unitarian view is that it is better to build bridges, than walls – which have sadly become the hallmark of so many religions.

The Unitarian practice of lighting the chalice flame – the One Light that is also many – is a tangible reminder that Oneness and Unity are not merely abstract concepts but spiritual imperatives for living that can transform our individual lives and change our world for the better.

For both Katie and I, our journey through orbs and beyond has not only been an exploration of paranormal phenomena it has been a personal spiritual journey.

Our own experiences have led us to question many things and to learn many things. The more we have learned the more we realize how little we all know, and how much more we all have yet to learn, especially about spiritual values: love, compassion and truth. We have been privileged to photograph some amazing images, which we believe are visual indications of the reciprocal nature of an all pervading Consciousness connecting our Reality, at many subtle levels with a Wider Reality beyond our normal range of perception. Although this Consciousness may be beyond scientific detection by methods now available to us, it is very probable that all documented authentic paranormal phenomena may well be evidence for its existence.

If that is so, then IT is part of us and we are part of IT.

THINKING OUT OF THE BOX

One positive thing about encountering anomalous or paranormal phenomena is that it often provides a kick start to get us thinking out of the box; to look beyond what is commonly acceptable to see new possibilities and new horizons. One such thought provoking incident, although in no way did it involve the paranormal, it is an extraordinary story that caused many to rethink their views of consciousness.

In 1965, a baby female chimpanzee was captured to be used by the US Air Force for research in the space program. This chimpanzee was named Washoe, after Washoe County, Nevada, where she was raised.

In 1967, Doctors, Allen and Beatrix Gardner initiated a project to teach Washoe ASL – American Sign Language, at the University of Nevada. Previous attempts to teach chimpanzees to imitate vocal languages had all failed. But the Gardner's believed these projects were flawed because chimps are physically incapable of producing the sounds required for spoken language. Their solution was to utilize the chimpanzee's natural ability for making diverse body gestures, which is how they communicate in the wild. It was from implementing this concept that Washoe became the first non-human to learn to communicate using sign language; this was so successful that other chimps were soon brought into the project.

But the point of this story is an incident that happened with Washoe herself.

As part of the project Washoe had her own accommodation at the University: with a couch, a refrigerator, and a bed with sheets and blankets. She had access to clothing, toys and books. Much like a human child Washoe also had a regular routine with chores to do, outdoor walks and play times, all of which were used as learning opportunities by the project team.

As part of the learning process Washoe was taken for regular walks in the park where there just happened to be a lake where swans lived. On her first encounter with the swans, the behavioural psychologists on the project, as was their plan, tried to teach Washoe the ASL sign for swan – but for some reason, in spite of repeated attempts by the team, Washoe never caught onto this sign; so after a while they simply gave up trying to teach her that particular sign. This was no problem as she was so good at learning other signs.

This was all forgotten about until one day when out walking with Washoe they again encountered a swan, but this time one of the team noticed that Washoe was now making a new sign they'd never seen before. Naturally they were fascinated and made a careful note of the new sign. Then it suddenly hit them – Washoe's new sign was a combination of two other signs! Washoe was now signing "WATER-BIRD"!

Harvard psychologist Roger Brown said this was "like getting an S.O.S. from outer space". It was a turning point in the whole project, but more it was a pivotal point in advancing our understanding of non-human consciousness.

Washoe's two word sign – "Water-Bird" is both inspiring and incredibly important because it clearly demonstrates that chimpanzees are capable of constructive thinking, deductive thought and imaginative thought processes: qualities which were once thought to be the unique and sole consequence of human evolution!

To qualify this, it was later discovered that Washoe and the other chimps on the project were all now able to combine the hundreds of signs that they'd

learned into new combinations they had never been taught, but which they'd created by themselves, for themselves. For instance, Washoe's mate Moja had rejected the ASL sign for "thermos" but replaced it with his own original combination sign of "METAL CUP DRINK". In creating their own signs the chimps showed they could be both imaginative and consistently logical. But that was not the end of the learning curve.

Being Human: Non-Human Empathy

Washoe became much attached to the humans regularly working with her on the project and was upset when any one of them was not there as usual. She became quite distressed when Kat, the caretaker, was absent for a few weeks. When Kat finally returned to work with the chimps, Washoe was deliberately ignoring her as a way of registering her disappointment over Kat's absence. Kat felt that she should explain the truth about her absence to Washoe, and persisted to try to get her attention. When she finally got it, Kat signed to Washoe:

"MY BABY DIED."

What happened next took Kat completely by surprise. Washoe stared at her; then looked down, and then she looked into Kat's eyes again and carefully signed, "CRY" and touching her cheek, traced her finger down the path a tear would make on a human.

This incident is incredibly thought provoking for two reasons: firstly Chimpanzees cannot shed tears – and secondly, Washoe herself had lost two children; one died shortly after birth of a heart defect and the other died of an infection at two months of age! Kat later remarked that this one sign – "CRY" – told her more about Washoe and her mental capabilities than all of the project data they'd collected. In a simple but profound way Washoe had demonstrated both understanding and empathy for a member of another species.

It now seems somewhat ironic that Biblical fundamentalist critics of Charles Darwin often used to try to scorn him in their publications by joking that he thought his uncle was a chimpanzee, but in the light of what Washoe communicated to Kat, this was really a compliment, because in that one incident Washoe evidenced far more intelligence than Darwin's fundamentalist 19th-century critics!

Washoe's "Water-bird" was the first intelligently constructed communicative sign originated by what some would have once seen as a "lesser species" but I believe Washoe gave us all an inspiring incentive for us to re-evaluate our definitions of intelligence and our own place in the scheme of things. For if a chimpanzee, with its necessarily limited view of the human world can evidence such empathy for human grief, how much more should we as members of the human species show empathy, understanding and compassion both for each other and for all those other species we share this world with? This of course brings us back to the concept of Oneness and the connectedness of all life within a more holistic view of a cosmos spiritually connected through a ubiquitous consciousness that flows through all phenomena whether normal or paranormal.

In terms of our own spiritual evolution as a species, I believe, studying and documenting paranormal phenomena, is certainly important – but it is not all important; if our encounters with such phenomenon do not help to transform us spiritually, as human beings, it is all useless.

If we hope to ever move beyond greed and materialism as a species, our next major step must be a spiritual one. This is the essential message that has consistently unfolded through all our experiences from Orbs to Beyond!

RECOMMENDED READING

The Authors wish to thank and acknowledge both the authors and publishers of the references and quotations used or referred to in this book and to recommend them, and the other books listed here below, for further reading.

A Field Guide to the Stars and Planets by Donald Menzel (Collins).

Anam Cara by John O'Donohue (Bantam Books).

Angels by Hope Price (Macmillan).

An Index of Possibilities by Clanose Publishers (Arrow Books).

Alien Investigator by Tony Dodd (Hodder Headline).

Alien Interface by Mike Oram & Fran Pickering (Star Hill Publishing).

Asimov's New Guide to Science by Isaac Asimov (Penguin).

Beyond Coincidence by Martin Plimmer & Brian King (Icon Books Ltd).

Beyond Photography by Katie Hall & John Pickering (O-Books).

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